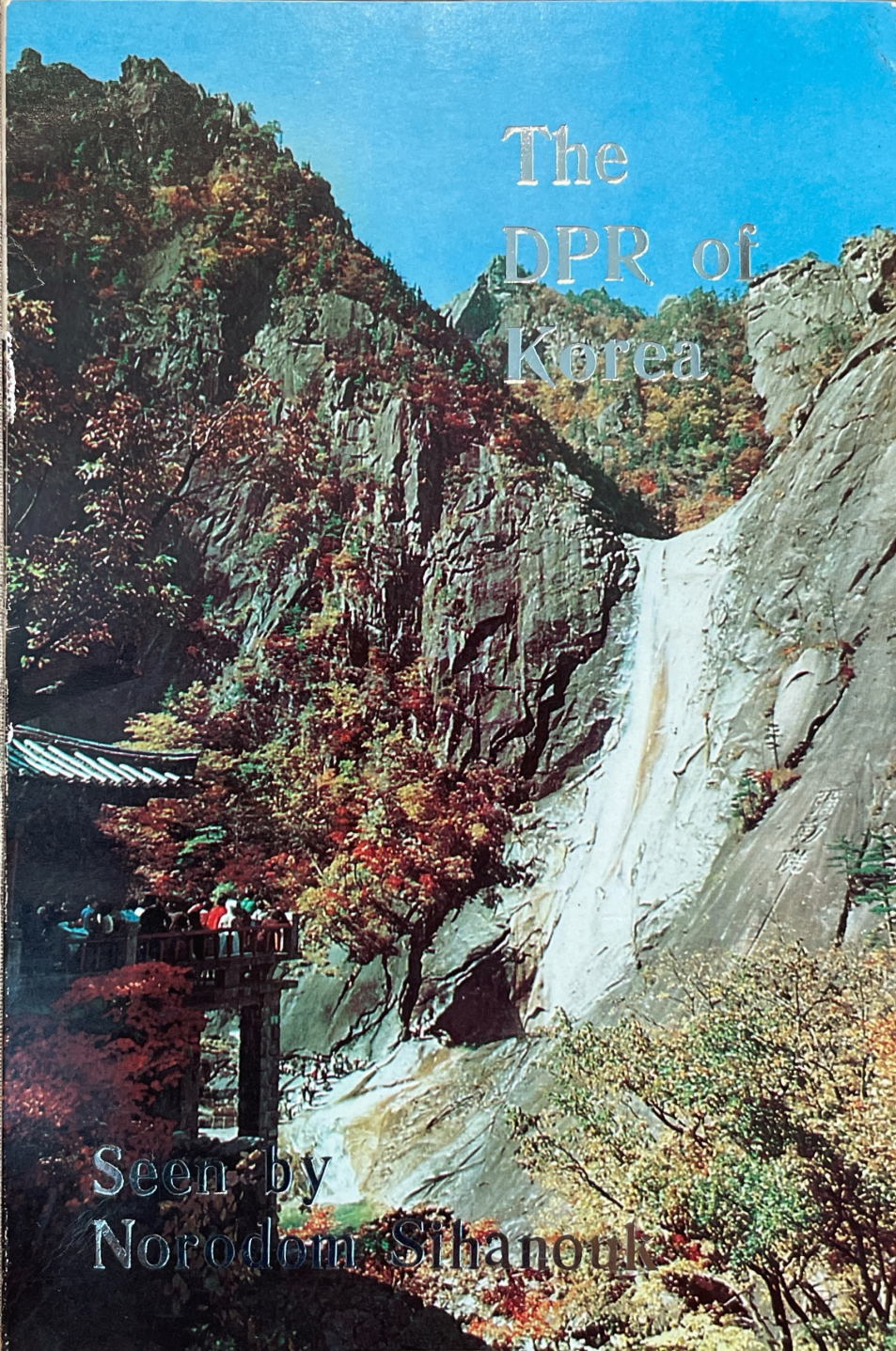

The
DPR of
Korea
Seen by
Norodom Sihanouk

# The Democratic People's Republic of Korea

## Seen by Norodom Sihanouk

Foreign Languages Publishing House
Pyongyang, Korea
1980

## EDITOR'S NOTE

"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Seen by Norodom Sihanouk" authored by the Prince himself was published in France last March. The Foreign Languages Publishing House is putting out the English translation now.

*July 1980*

# THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA SEEN BY NORODOM SIHANOUK

**Han Suyin**
**An English writer**

It is with great satisfaction that I am writing this short article to introduce to the general public the volume entitled "The Democratic People's Republic of Korea Seen by Norodom Sihanouk".

As everyone knows, Prince Norodom Sihanouk has been the guest of two countries, the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, since in January 1979, he and his wife Princess Monique and their two sons were saved by a timely airplane from Peking (...). Prince Sihanouk is a man of courage and vitality, of utter fortitude in adversity. He has used these months since his release not only to speak out his mind with utter frankness, but also to write a series of important books of unique value to historians and to all concerned in understanding the tortuous international politics of our century.

Among his recent creations is the slim volume I take pleasure in introducing today, after a visit—also too short—to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

This visit was, for me, a revelation. I might even call it a shock, albeit a most pleasant one. I had no idea of what the country was like; and living in the Western World, I too was a victim of the deliberate way in which the Western mass media try to keep all of us ignorant, and

not only ignorant but even prejudiced against this remarkable country and its achievements.

My first shock was when I noticed the countryside fields. Accustomed to rural scenes in so many countries of the Third World, it was a wonderful experience to view those precise, neat fields with their canals, their tractors at work, their village houses and their glass windows, with lace curtains (solid stone houses with beautiful tiled roofs) and above all, the electric pylons, striding off in every direction.

Here it was. What Lenin had said was indispensable for socialism: the electrification and mechanization of agriculture.

Further trip inland further convinced me. I went from pleased wonder to delighted surprise. A developed agriculture with very real and increasing mechanization everywhere with electrification of each village; with the growth of small towns as focuses where schools, libraries, hospitals and shops are available (the needed urbanization of rural areas). And rapidly growing industry, of quite surprising range and dimension, producing not only steels and machine tools to equip itself—and thereby become almost totally self-reliant—but also contributing to a light industry whose goods of high quality range from perfumes to stockings and shoes, from textiles of every description to plastics, from glassware to excellent wood furniture....

But I must not let myself get carried away by my discovery. In the book which Prince Norodom Sihanouk has written will be found, within a very few pages, an excellent description of what this country is like, and how it works. Of its people and their courage, intelligence and patriotism. Of their successes in rebuilding, from its ashes, their cities and turning Pyongyang, the capital, into one of the best-looking modern cities to be found in the world.

All this could not have been achieved without the extraordinary vision and wisdom of that great man, President KIM IL SUNG. Undoubtedly, without his presence and his

personality whose imprint is found everywhere, (for it is absolutely true that he travels his land, visiting every factory, bridge, village, new city, school, or undertaking), the success of Korea's socialist development might not be what it is. And let us not forget that President KIM IL SUNG was also his country's Liberator, as well as the Master Builder of today's North Korea.

It is in PLANNING for the future that the exceptional talent of this Great Leader is so evident. Let me take one example. The new Maternity Hospital in Pyongyang. I was privileged to visit it even before it opened its gates. Its size, completeness and modernity are quite extraordinary; but what is even more so is that all the equipment is in function of an increasing population, so that, if within 10 to 15 years, there will still be no overcrowding, nor inefficiency due to inadequate equipment. Where else, in a Third World country of scarcely 18 million people (and a population growth rate said to be of 14 per 1,000) would then be 100 incubations for prematures in one hospital alone?

Norodom Sihanouk's little book tells, without any exaggeration, of this astonishing country and its people under the aegis of Marshal KIM IL SUNG. He tells, and it is a most important chapter, of the reunification of Korea—devoutly wished for by every Korean. Here again, the nobility and vision of the Korean President inspire respect; for he envisages this reunification by peaceful, democratic means; and it is most essential to understand this aim, which can only remove yet another focus of tension and unease from our troubled world....

And it is a happy story. I have only one word to add: that Korea combines the natural beauty of Switzerland and Kashmir, with the enchantment of a land totally unspoilt, yet totally cared for by its own people.

*April 1980*

# CONTENTS


Introduction . . . . . 6

Chapter One **To Renew My Understanding** . . . . 9

Chapter Two **Outline of Geography and History** . . 17

Chapter Three **Kim Il Sung, the Struggle for Independence** . . . . . 29

Chapter Four **Reconstruction and Development of the Economy** . . . . . 39

Chapter Five **The Culture the Entire People Enjoy** . 50

Chapter Six **A Happy Life** . . . . . 58

Chapter Seven **Capital City and Recreation Grounds** . 67

Chapter Eight **There Is Only One Korea** . . . . 75

Chapter Nine **Kimilsungism** . . . . . 87

## INTRODUCTION

This modest booklet is intended for no other purpose than helping other nations to have a correct understanding of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which I infinitely estimate and which has become so dear to me, particularly those nations where it still is the object of hasty or malevolent judgement due to their ignorance or prejudices.

Of course, I have not written this booklet as a propagandist. People's Korea does not want it, nor am I in a position to take upon myself the cause of another country on top of my own. Only as a friend of justice and truth I am obliged to write about the country which is familiar to me and has moved me so deeply.

Since 1965 I have often visited the DPRK, and often stayed there for a long time. President KIM IL SUNG, the pre-eminent leader of the DPRK who enjoys the highest popularity of the Korean people, has invariably shown me profound confidence and warm friendship both in the past when I was in office as Head of State and at present when I am in exile.

Officials, soldiers, working intellectuals, workers, farmers and everyone else whom I met in Korea have expressed their deferential sympathy with me. Moreover, the Korean Government has shown me exceptionally generous and warm hospitality at every request for visit which I have made frequently.

I am not taking up my pen to express my sincere

thanks to my friends of the DPRK. Their brotherly hospitality accorded me is something quite natural for them, and they do not expect any reward from me. Nevertheless, I think it is my duty to take my relative leisure due to my disengagement from the Cambodian affairs and give an account of an example of our Asia on my own accord as an eyewitness, with a feeling of friendship and yet, from a completely independent stand.

I just want to say briefly about what I have seen in the DPRK and what I know of and believe, if you please, from the viewpoint of an authoritative and competent observer. In order to guarantee against my personal bias in writing this piece of work, I requested Monsieur Jean Barre, a French journalist who is well informed of Asian questions and whose objectivity I recognize for his collaboration in preparing the book.

He accompanied me on my last visit to Korea prior to my writing. We exchanged our impressions and views very freely. My conclusion was the same as his: the DPRK is not only a magnificent country which might be called an "Asian Switzerland" for its beauty preserved carefully at sites most of which are mountainous, but also the most laudable country with industry and agriculture capable of meeting its domestic demands, which is also advanced socially.

The DPRK which was devastated by the 1950-53 destructive war recovered its war wounds only in a few years and has made an amazing, all-round progress.

The success, the like of which can be a pride for any great countries and the denial of which would be unfair and even absurd, is the reward of the great efforts and sacrifices on the part of the very industrious, courageous, talented and disciplined people of Korea. The success also owes

their leader President KIM IL SUNG who sets forth concrete tasks for the people, points out the urgency and necessity and invigorates them further.

Socialist Korea today is not a copy of any foreign model. It was brought about by the thought of an unusual man, valiant out-and-out fighter of resistance and national independence, founder of socialism that suits the specific conditions of his country, administrator and leader of the people who incarnates the finest traditions and talents of the ingenious Korean people.

I hope that this little book giving an account mainly of what I saw and felt rather than of my political views will help those who have little or no idea of the DPRK to develop their understanding, respect and even love as I have for this country.

The Cambodian people who will have to rebuild their ravaged country, though in great misfortune at present, will, when time comes, learn from the splendid example of our great Korean friends with the same will to regenerate as the Koreans', though with less manpower and material resources.

# CHAPTER ONE

## TO RENEW MY UNDERSTANDING

During my frequent visits to the DPRK and especially through several-month-long stays since the March 1970 coup against me, I have had opportunities to see all that is worth seeing in this country.

Through an unremitting courtesy of the Korean authorities who regard me as their true friend, I have become familiar not only with Pyongyang, the capital city, but also with provinces through my long stay there. I have visited major industrial and agricultural centres, had seaside recreation for some time, travelled old battlefields of the anti-Japanese resistance and climbed other mountains.

Before I got down to this book, I wanted to renew my recollections. As my Korean friends who are socialists as well as poets put it, the DPRK is advancing at the "speed of Chollima", a legendary winged steed. So the rushing Chollima is the symbol of this vibrating country.

To have a renewed understanding of this country I decided to pay another systematic visit to the DPRK with Monsieur Jean Barre who would see this land with fresh eyes since he had never been there before. My French companion, who had known of Korea only through a few books and articles dealing superficially with the subject from different angles and in general terms at that, was amazed at everything he saw on the visit. I, too, made quite

a few new discoveries in the period from the summer to the early autumn of 1979.

Fully aware of all difficulties in building a country from my own experience as Head of State of an Asian country, I watched with satisfaction mixed with envy the new successes Korea recorded every year to provide an immense happiness for her people.

I would like to mention just one of these successes which was quite a news to me and therefore gave me an unusual impression. That was a 200 kilometre motorway newly built between Pyongyang and Wonsan harbour and the bathing beach on the east coast.

When I visited this town six years ago, I took a train which travelled 7 to 8 hours, including the time of service stops, enjoying a very beautiful though rugged mountain scenery. The road which reduced the travelling time to some 2.5 hours was built by the soldiers of the People's Army from March to September 1978. It has more than 100 bridges of 50 ton capacities and over 20 tunnels, the last of which is four kilometres long.

The motorway ran across fields, with rice, maize, sorghum, soya bean and other crops flourishing and overflowing the narrow valleys on one side and with steep slopes within a few metres on the other. This spacious road with four to six lines in addition to the median line dividing the traffic lanes permits the speed of 120 kilometres an hour. It is of both strategic and economic significance, for it enables to carry fruit and other agricultural products easily and quickly to consumer areas from the beautiful roadside farm villages with rows of durable houses. When the DPRK accepts more foreign tourists, the road will be of great value to them. At a roadside spot, 100 kilometres to Wonsan, with a bend of clear stream, there had already been arranged an

elegant "rest house" where a variety of Korean and foreign foodstuffs were available. My French companion pointed to Cognac Rouyer, Baron Otard, Johny Walker, etc.

When we got nearer to Wonsan, we had a rest at a pavilion where we could command an exquisite mountain scenery.

Excuse me for rambling away from the main subject, but my intention was to illustrate the amazing speed of construction in the DPRK.

My first impression of Korea was that the DPRK was a really beautiful country, and this impression grew all the firmer with my further trips.

Korea is diverse in its natural features, indeed. This country with not too big an area (120,000 square kilometres), 75 per cent of which is mountainous, is blessed with impressive landscapes everywhere. Gentle slopes made into orchards by the instruction of President KIM IL SUNG and towering, perpendicular crags are to be seen. The waters pouring down the mountain slopes from their crests form magnificent falls which in turn are harnessed to generate electricity at power stations spruced up in harmony with the surrounding landscape.

In such wonderful sites you are apt to forget the flow of time as if in another world and feel persuaded to offer your talents to make nature more enjoyable. Simple but very convenient hotels have been built for Korean vacationers and foreign visitors, and lanes well laid out for mountain climbers.

Even quite ordinary holiday-makers respect the dignity of environments. There, too, you cannot see such unpleasant waste paper, empty cans and bottles as you can find in the so-called "developed" countries. Cleanliness prevails in every part of this country.

Road watchmen, soldiers, officials off duty and

schoolchildren on holidays strive to keep the country tidy in cooperation with workers and farmers.

More often than not, you can see schoolgirls in white blouses and dark-blue skirts and schoolboys in white shirts and black trousers, all wearing red scarves, carefully tending flower-beds along thoroughfares neatly lined with trees in the capital city or filling up gravels in small hollows on sidewalks to prevent possible washout. They do it with vim. These lovely children raise their hands by way of salute when they find an official procession of cars, knowing that they must be respectable state officials or foreign friends.

In 1392 Li Song Gye, a general of Koryo, set up his dynasty and named the state Choson (the "Land of Morning Calm"). Choson was frequently invaded by Ching from the continent and by Japan from across the sea. It fought many wars to repel those aggressors and liberate itself. There were also numerous uprisings of the people in the feudal days.

It was not until the end of the 1950-53 war against the US that the DPRK really won back the morning calm, though on the alert. The Republic could win this calm through the heroic struggle of the soldiers, the zealous efforts of the working people in factories and farm villages and thanks to the brilliant wisdom and correct leadership of their national leader Marshal KIM IL SUNG, son of the people, who is one in mind and will with them and loved and respected by them.

I have not a shadow of doubt, as other good-minded observers do, that the Korean leader is the champion for dialogue and peace.

After rebuilding his devastated and ruined country, adjusting, beautifying and raising it, with the entirely devoted cooperation and sacrifices of his people, to a state of quite enviable advancement

and prosperity, it will be difficult to imagine that he takes the great risk—unless, of course, it is invaded from outside—of plunging into a military adventure which will nullify such admirable achievements in all spheres and shed the blood of people whom he has been leading to security and well-being.

I firmly believed that President KIM IL SUNG was sincere when he proposed to reunify Korea peacefully and by democratic ways after free consultations between the people in the two zones. I hope the Americans will soon share my view because the indefinite presence of their huge military force in south Korea is neither sane nor just in view of the fact that if the south Korean people are under a free system, not under repression and fraudulent election system, the overwhelming majority of them will support immediate reunion with the north.

I know that the leading officials of the DPRK, my close acquaintances, hold their irreplaceable national leader in highest esteem, not because they are overwhelmed by his influential personality.

They perform their responsible jobs very strictly. Otherwise, they would have no room to be in office for long. They are also at a high level of moral and intellectual attainments. My contacts with them have been courteous, pleasant, not without humour, and among others, useful. They are estimable and candid conversationists in many respects.

Competence and frankness are common to all state officials and precisely these virtues made our contacts very pleasant.

I was satisfied with the generosity of the Koreans both in their official and private relations. President KIM IL SUNG is their paragon here. For example, he kindly offers a cigarette to a worker or pats another affectionately on the shoulder at any work place. He is quite informal with workers and

farmers who are also completely unreserved. Endowed with an exceptionally keen memory and possessed with an impressive wealth of knowledge on professional and human problems, he is an expert in all spheres; he is teacher, leader and chief of everyone. His visit to a production unit is eagerly looked forward, and after his visit, it remains in everybody's memory, because his on-the-spot instructions always bring about improvement and progress in that branch and elsewhere.

Some people in the West think that the Korean people, transformed into "robots" under a communist regime are engaged gloomily in hard toil every day, and that all their movements are under close police surveillance everywhere, living in dingy barracks, and their children belonging to the state rather than to their parents.

But I can prove that all this is a sheer lie. It is an irrefutable fact that the social system of the DPRK is the most humanitarian system of all forms of communist systems.

Everyone is doing his job splendidly, clearly aware of its importance, and that is quite natural because their leadership personnel, high or low, tirelessly explain that the development of the country is the cause of all people or of each individual.

Model workers, however, do not know such a thing as "Stakhanovism". Strong or able workers lead and help the weak forward, and in a collective spirit they advance together at a good rhythm. Korea need not demand of its working masses such a norm breaking speed as attained by a tiny handful of shock workers who are called "tough old chaps"—an entirely unattainable speed for the majority of workers who are not so strong or able.

The Korean workers do not get only politico-moral stimulation. They are not without material incentives. They enjoy a great deal of social benefits

which are almost unprecedented in other countries.

I saw the opera *Song of Paradise,* in which an old farmer in charge of a rich cooperative farm who was not too enthusiastic about the share he was going to receive, said; "Well, well. There is nothing I need to buy with it now, because I've been given free a new modern house furnished with a television set and even a refrigerator."

In most of the industrialized countries as I know, such a remark would provoke a roar of laughter and even sneering whistles because it would sound absurd and even as a mockery at the poor. But in Pyongyang the remark won a thunderous applause because it reflected the reality as it is. In fact, there are neither the rich nor the poor in this country. There may be a little better-off people, but there is not a poor man. They know nothing of unemployment or poverty. Everyone has enough and to spare. Even those who are at the "lowest rung" of the social ladder are, in reality, living happy and decent lives.

In concluding the introductory chapter of this book, I want to tell what I like particularly about my friends of the DPRK.

They love freedom and independence. They are the sons and daughters of a proud race with a time-honoured history, who have always fought braving the vicissitudes of history. They are a race who are merciless to their enemy, brave in battles, industrious and disciplined in peacetime, faithful to their friends and know how to treat their friends with all their kind hearts.

They are also a beautiful race, the honour of our Asia. Look at beautiful young Korean women who are enchanting, exquisite and well-balanced and have the air of decision about them. In Korea women are equal to men. Among them you cannot see any

of such spineless, shabby playthings or prostitutes "blinded by gold" who make days merry—and nights above all—as can be seen in the capitals of a number of neighbouring countries. Boys respect girls who will be ideal wives and mothers someday. Their frugal make-up does not mean that the Korean women ignore beauty in the proper sense of the word. Their sleek hair dexterously coiled up and their gracefully soft make-up harmonize perfectly with their national costume consisting of a short jacket and skirt of bright colour (green, blue or rosy).

With age women's beauty gradually fades away, but settled calm replaces it, keeping them still attractive.

Korean men, too, are handsome. Their high statues, slenderly balanced build and rich facial expressions blend into a prudent and pleasant impression. Physically, they are very robust. They are always dressed neatly (they dislike untidy attire there). Free from excessive formalities, they are well-mannered, respecting old people, loving children, and being good husbands as their wives say. Here, I do not want to go further into the private lives of my Korean friends. The only thing I must say is that they are leading happy lives.

The Korean nation with a very long history has become rejuvenated since they regained peace and stability. There are many children but they are all well-nourished, well-clad and healthy. They are playful but lovable. President KIM IL SUNG said that children are kings of the country. He shows special concern for their health, education and all other aspects of their lives. Of this I shall give a further account later, for that is worth mentioning so much.

I have told my dear readers about my impressions and views rather in a desultory manner. So I would like to deal with these subjects in greater detail in the following chapters.

## CHAPTER TWO

# OUTLINE OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY

Here is an outline of Korea's geography and history for my readers who have only vague notions of this long-celebrated country.

In short, Korea is a large peninsula situated in East Asia. She adjoins the People's Republic of China along a considerably long border line on the north and the Soviet Union along a very short border line on the northeast. Her nearest neighbour across the sea is Japan. The total length of border line is 1,376 kilometres and that of coast line 8,693 kilometres. She is bounded by seas on three sides—they are called the South, East and West Seas and adjoin the Pacific Ocean.

The total area of the Korean peninsula is slightly over 220,000 square kilometres, of which islands account for 6,000 square kilometres.

The population grows rapidly. In 1956 the figure was less than 32 million, and in 1977 more than 53 million. In that year the population of the DPRK was approximately 17 million, and that of south Korea some 36 million. The area of the DPRK is more than 120,000 square kilometres whereas that of south Korea less than 100,000 square kilometres.

Seventy-five per cent of the Korean peninsula is mountainous. There are very few mountains higher than 1,650 metres except on the northern tip. Cultivated flatland is only 20 per cent of the total area throughout the north and south of Korea.

The highest mountain is Mt. Paekdu-san on the northern border, with a height of 2,750 metres. It was a long-standing volcano in the Tertiary Period, and the circumference of the Lake of Chonji, which was a crater in that period, is as long as 19 kilometres. The mountain is an old battlefield of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle organized and led by President KIM IL SUNG.

Among the many Korean mountains is the famous Mt. Kumgang-san. The mountain with more than 12,000 peaks and innumerable valleys and waterfalls wins the admiration of tourists for its enthralling beauty. I have good memories of Mt. Paekdu-san and Mt. Kumgang-san which I happened to see with my own eyes. They are really beautiful and magnificent.

Plains where crops are cultivated to the limits spread over the basins on the lower reaches of big rivers which drain into the sea. Each plain is generally 300 to 500 square kilometres.

Korea's climate in general is temperate and seasonal differences are distinct. Korea, a maritime country, is much affected by the continental climate. The average temperature of August, the hottest month, is 24°C and that in the coldest month of January 6°C below zero. In spring the weather is mild and apple trees blossom up, while in autumn the air is bracing and rich crops ripen.

Korea has many rivers. The longest is the River Amnok-gang which is 821 kilometres. There are also many large natural and artificial lakes in this country, which are used for irrigation and fish breeding. Swift rivers are harnessed for power generation.

Hot springs and spas abound in the northern half of the Republic. They are especially effective in the treatment of nervous diseases, women's diseases, skin diseases, chronical hepatitis and

vocational diseases. In the spa areas are many modern accommodations for the working people who need treatment.

As I said above, three-fourths of the Korean peninsula is mountainous. Only in the northern half of the Republic one could see thick forests which were effectively utilized by felling and planting trees in accordance with a correct policy. Mountains in the southern half were disfigured and denuded because of random felling.

The north or the DPRK has deposits of major mineral resources. They had been plundered by the Japanese occupationists until the end of the second world war.

Rich iron deposits are distributed in the area south of Pyongyang and in the vicinity of Chongjin in the northeast of Korea. The iron ores produced there are processed with bituminous coal and high-quality anthracite abundant in the northern half and the rest of the peninsula. Iron and coal deposits are exposed to the surface layer.

In addition, Korea is rich in the deposits of graphite, magnesite, copper, lead, zinc, tungsten, gold and silver.

Few countries are so much blessed with natural resources. I can say that the DPRK is specially favoured in this respect. Along with President KIM IL SUNG's wise and bold economic policy, this is a basic factor in the rapid and extensive development of Korea's industry.

## CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF KOREA'S LONG HISTORY

### a) Ancient History

I particularly appreciate the fact that President

KIM IL SUNG entitled one of his works *The Korean Revolutionaries Must Know Korea Well* and reminded his comrades-in-arms of the impressive events in the long and chequered history of the Korean nation.

President KIM IL SUNG emphasized as follows: "Ours is a single nation with 5,000 years of history; it is a valorous, ambitious nation that has been vigorously fighting against foreign invaders and successive reactionary rulers from olden times; and it is a talented nation that has contributed greatly to mankind's development of science and culture."

Any nation is liable to vicissitudes—progress and retrogression, victories and setbacks. Nevertheless, one should not erase certain historical aspects in favour of the present, nor can that be done. Past events all serve as lessons for the living, sometimes showing mistakes that should not be repeated and sometimes offering valuable advices.

In this connection, let me take an example of military nature.

In 612 Sui which had unified China, launched a massive invasion of Koguryo with an army of three million. Commander-in-Chief General Ulji Mun Dok assumed command of the war of resistance against the foreign invaders. Not preoccupied with defence, he organized powerful counterattacks from the fortresses in Liaodong and on the northwest border, thus disrupting the enemy forces who attempted to break through Koguryo's defence and destroy her piecemeal and inflicting a heavy loss to them.

When the enemy was preparing a massive offensive along the Liaodong line, General Ulji Mun Dok ventured into the enemy camp with a feigned proposal for negotiations. He found that the enemy troops were exhausted with continued battles and ran out of provisions.

Back from the enemy camp, the general conceived

a new plan of operation to force a ceaseless march upon the hungry enemy until they were exhausted and then launch a decisive offensive at the place of choice.

Now, the Koguryo troops were regrouped into many small mobile forces, hit the enemy from ambush scores of times every day and frustrated their offensive. While pursuing the retreating enemy, the general got the bulk of his forces to lie in ambush along the River Salsu which the enemy had to cross. The invaders swarmed into the trap unawares only to meet mass destruction. Only 2,700 of the 300,000 enemy troops escaped alive. Isn't the ingenious strategy which enabled a small force to defeat a large enemy in the 7th century an outstanding example of military strategy? If I am not mistaken, the Korean People's Revolutionary Army often applied a strategy and tactics much similar to their ancestors' in the war against the Japanese occupationists.

Now, after such a brief discourse, let me further trace back to the remote past and touch on the genesis of Koreans.

It is said that a Tungus people first moved from eastern Siberia to Manchuria and Korea some 30,000 years B.C. They are said to have spoken an Ural-Altaic language, believed in shamanism and had the culture of the Old Stone Age.

A historian wrote that the Koreans were a strong and brave people with a very keen sense of racial and tribal unity.

This character of the primitive Koreans has been handed down almost unaltered. The "strong and brave" Korean people have striven to preserve their national unity down through ages. They have never lost the spirit of independence and love of freedom even in the most trying years.

Now, on some aspects of Korea's ancient history.

In Korea the transition from the Old Stone Age to the New Stone Age came to an end around 5,000 B.C. The Koreans used bronze ware from 2,000 B.C. and ironware since 500 B.C.

During 1,000 years before Christ, the Koreans formed slave-owning kingdoms—Kochoson, Puyo and Chinguk. In this period ironware was widely used, and agriculture and handicrafts made considerable progress. These states fell because of foreign invasions, rulers' corruption and people's revolts and were replaced by other feudal states—Koguryo, Paekje and Silla which existed until the 7th century.

Notable in this period of three kingdoms is that the Koreans repelled the invaders from Sui and Tang on several occasions and developed agriculture and livestock breeding rapidly. Rice fields were well irrigated, and handicraftsmen produced a variety of fabrics and beautiful ceramics, which became known far and wide. Buddhism contributed to progress in arts, architecture and technology, and the Chinese culture (Confucianism and Taoism) affected the socio-political system and the development of literature to a certain degree.

The Korean people's real talents found expression in building the Chomsongdae, the world's first astronomical observatory, in the middle of the 7th century (it is still preserved today). The mural paintings in the Anak Tombs (4C), the Kangso Tombs (6C to 7C) and many other tombs are famous for their powerful brushwork, delicate tastes and harmonious colours. The mural paintings, too, are still preserved intact.

Koryo emerged as a powerful centralized kingdom at the beginning of the 10th century and lasted for 500 years. It was replaced by the Li dynasty at the end of the 14th century. The Li dynasty ruled the land for a long time until Korea was occupied by Japanese imperialism.

In this period Korea firmly defended her independence from aggression by China and Mongolia. At the end of the 14th century she routed the Japanese invaders both on land and sea. But the fleeing invaders took many Korean handicraftsmen and technicians with them. Agriculture and the handicraft industry made further progress, and the mining industry, commerce and foreign trade also developed.

The Korean people had their own letters even before the Christian era. In the middle of the 15th century they created the Korean alphabet which they are still using. It is easy to learn and write and rich in vowels so that it can express even many foreign pronunciations correctly, to say nothing of the Korean language.

In the 12th century Korean printers invented metal types.

In the early 12th century Korean scholars observed dark spots in the sun and made a comparatively accurate astronomical chart, the lunar calendar and the Korean map.

**b) Modern History**

Korea's modern history is characterized by the struggle of intellectuals and the masses of the people against the feudal system on the one hand and by the Korean people's stubborn resistance against repeated foreign aggression on the other.

In the latter half of the 18th century the students and teachers who advocated reforms came out against the corrupt and incompetent government and bureaucrats. They demanded that Korea's traditional culture be studied and that national identity and the country's independence be revived. They asserted that the government should make it its basic mission to increase the well-being of the people.

The very moderate demand which did not take

issue with the existing order, was ignored by the reactionary rulers at the time.

Early in the 19th century aggravating socio-economic conditions and violent behaviour of the bureaucrats provoked a furious peasant revolt.

The people's uprising led by a patriot Hong Gyong Rae against the Li dynasty is remembered in Korea. Hong Gyong Rae rallied thousands of people and liberated a wide area but was defeated by the superior government army. The revolters fought to a man in defence of the Chongju Wall, their last stronghold.

In the 1860's-70's Korea was confronted with the colonialist schemes of the Western powers and Japan.

Western records reveal that in those years the West showed much commercial and strategic considerations for Asia.

Korean historians offered us the following specific facts:

In August 1866 the United States sent the *General Sherman,* a pirate ship, to Korea. The ship sailed up the River Taedong-gang in an attempt to force by threat a commercial treaty in their own favour upon the Korean government. The pirates did all sorts of violence to Korean officials and people, killing seven of them and destroying villages near the river.

The inhabitants of Pyongyang led by Kim Ung U, the great grandfather of President KIM IL SUNG, countered them at once. The people piled firewood on boats and then sent them aflame to drift towards the US ship and burnt it up.

In October the same year a French fleet of seven naval vessels intruded into Kanghwa Island in the West Sea near Seoul allegedly in revenge for the murder of a few missionaries who had been executed on charge of illegal entry into Korea where

they had collected intelligence. More than 2,500 French troops who got ashore were repelled by the Korean artillery and infantry.

In May 1871, 1,230 Americans aboard five warships occupied Kanghwa Island to force Korea to accept an unequal treaty in compensation for the sinking of the *General Sherman*. The Korean soldiers and patriotic people again repelled the invaders by united efforts.

Now, the Japanese came in the wake of the Western powers. The corrupt and incompetent rulers at that time yielded to the enemy's military threat and concluded the humiliating "Kanghwado Treaty" in 1876. By this treaty Japan enormously gained in her political and commercial dealings with Korea.

The people who were suffering from ceaseless Japanese military provocation and aggression and the Korean soldiers who were angry at the supply of rotten rice issued instead of their pay which had been in arrear rose together in revolt against the Japanese and corrupt Queen Min and her clique in 1882. Had Queen Min not been able to escape and bring in the Ching troops, the rebellious people would have emerged victorious. But the very poorly organized "insurgent" army of Korea was put down by the superior force of Ching troops.

In 1884 the "reformist" movement launched by progressive intellectuals and ministers demanded a radical change in the political, economic and social systems in view of the crumbling feudal system. In a coup they killed the conservative ministers and published a new programme which rejected Ching's intervention in the internal affairs of Korea.

The reformist government lasted three days because of the Ching army's attack and of the perfidious attack from the Japanese army which had promised for backup. Queen Min came back to royal

power. The reformists were executed with the exception of a few who fled abroad.

This was Korea's first "bourgeois revolution" which was geared to her modernization on an independent line.

In 1894 there were peasant uprisings in Cholla and Chungchong Provinces. The government again asked the Ching Army to help in the repression of the revolters. Two thousand Ching troops landed on the shore of the Bay of Asan. This gave the Japanese a pretext for their landing on Korea. On June 9, 8,000 Japanese troops landed on Inchon to "protect Japanese residents". On the night of July 23, the Japanese seized the Royal Palace by force of arms, and then attacked the Ching troops in Korea even without declaring war. That was the beginning of the 1894-95 Sino-Japanese War which ended in the victory of Japan.

In October that year there was another peasant uprising which put up the banner of national salvation. Tens of thousands of peasants led by Chon Bong Jun pressed upon Seoul. In that city the Japanese had murdered Queen Min and rigged up a pro-Japanese Cabinet. Fierce battles took place, but the peasant army was defeated by the allied force of the Japanese regular army troops and the government army. The Japanese massacred 300,000 to 400,000 innocent Koreans in a bloody repression.

Rivalry for domination over Korea between Russia greatly interested in this country and Japan which wanted to become the cock of the walk in the peninsula culminated in the 1904-05 Russo-Japanese War. Russia was defeated in the war, and unfortunately Korea was occupied later by Japan. Korea's independence was "guaranteed" by the treaty concluded as a result of the war, but in 1905 Japan made Korea her "protectorate". In 1907 Japan installed a new king in Korea and on August 22,

1910 forced him to sign the treaty on the complete annexation of Korea to Japan.

Deprived of all their freedom and rights under military rule and even their lands under various pretexts, the Korean people were virtually reduced to slaves of Japanese military clique which controlled the repressive police.

As President KIM IL SUNG pointed out, the righteous volunteers movement to resist Japanese aggression dealt heavy blows at the imperialists over a decade around 1910.

After the Korean army was disbanded in 1907, the righteous volunteers in cooperation with the disbanded soldiers fought battles even near Seoul and killed a large number of Japanese and their Korean collaborators. In the years subsequent to the occupation of Korea, the brave righteous volunteers continued to fight in Manchuria and in the Maritime Provinces of the Soviet Union. Their struggle, however, ended in failure because they had no leader and lacked coordinated efforts.

Throughout the years of her occupation of Korea, Japan kept two army divisions and naval forces in Korea in addition to a nearly 20,000-strong police force.

Nevertheless, such a repressive machinery of the Japanese was unable to prevent the Korean people from publishing the declaration of independence on March 1, 1919. Confronted with a brutal repression by the Japanese military and police forces, the peaceable demonstration movement burst into an all-out revolt in Seoul and the rest of the country.

The Japanese occupationists mobilized all their forces for a more cruel repression. During a three-month period they slaughtered or wounded more than 23,000 patriots and arrested over 50,000. In April 1919 they burnt alive a whole crowd of people who fled into a church. (This was an atrocity similar

to that perpetrated by the German nazis in Oradour sur Glane, France in 1944).

In Korea today the March First Popular Uprising is considered an event which demonstrated an unbreakable stamina of the Korean people and a turning-point from the bourgeois nationalist movement to the national-liberation movement led by the workers and peasants.

This uprising developed into the movement to liberate the country led by the indomitable anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter Kim Hyong Jik in the 1920's. Later this noble cause was carried forward by his son, Marshal KIM IL SUNG, who led it to ultimate victory by overcoming all difficulties and hardships.

## CHAPTER THREE

# KIM IL SUNG, THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

In order to better acquaint the reader with the crucial importance which the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle acquires in the eyes of the Korean people, I would like to quote a few lines from an American essay, signed by Mr. Andrew C. Nahm. It summarizes very clearly the aims the Japanese set out in invading Korea. "Their aims," says the author, "were triple: utilization of the human and natural resources of Korea for promoting the economic development of Japan, assimilation of Koreans to the Japanese culture, and construction of a solid base for continental invasion."

"With these objectives," continues Mr. Nahm, "the Japanese developed the economy of Korea and spread education to form 'subjects loyal, obedient and useful' to the Emperor of Japan, the economy of Korea was dominated by the Japanese, and Korea remained the principal supplier of food and manpower for Japan. The development of secondary and higher education was limited to the minimum and the programme of education was geared to the production of work force cheap and of limited value.

"The programme of cultural assimilation was aimed at the destruction of Korea's cultural heritage. The use of the Korean language was at first restricted and then prohibited. Christianity could only exist

under severe restriction. The Koreans were forced to abandon their national names and adopt Japanese names."

Mr. Nahm concluded by saying that the Japanese made an effort for the industrialization of Korea "only after the Japanese started their aggression on Manchuria in 1931 and the war against China in 1937, which led to a still greater exploitation of Korea. The second world war only intensified the control and exploitation of Korea by the Japanese."

For the Koreans, therefore, the dilemma was simple: either take up arms and liberate themselves or disappear as a people and a nation.

Of course, they chose the struggle, which will not in the least surprise anyone who knows, through the history of their country, their love of independence and liberty. They were aware that the Japanese conquerors, in their quest of hegemony in Asia, only saw in them sub-humans, slaves in the service of the race of Japanese "lords".

The Korean people who rose in a war of liberation could not ignore the immense difficulties lying ahead of them. First of all, they could not count on any foreign aid. China was living (and would still have to live for a long time) under a feudal and reactionary regime. The Soviet Union, not long after the October Socialist Revolution of 1917, had many worries in the military and economic areas. It was primarily bent on aiding the Chinese Communist Party and so could give nothing but encouragements and advices to the Korean Communist Party which was in the making.

Moreover, Japan was in the ascendant. One will recall that she had defeated China and Russia. The West which maintained only limited forces in their Asian colonies, did not offer a menace to her.

As we have seen, the Japanese Empire implanted in Korea large numbers of heavily armed occupation

troops, a redoubtable gendarmerie which covered the whole country, an information service placing in every city and village Korean spies in its pay who were charged with the duty of reporting to the imperial police not only those whom they called "revolutionary bandits" but also those who were suspected of sympathy for independence.

It is in this dramatic context that the Korean patriots waged their struggle for the salvation of their robbed, downtrodden and humiliated nation, for the survival of their ancient and marvellous national culture.

Because it is not a question to review or summarize some 35 years of history, I will only deal here with the early years of the revolutionary movement for liberation which is less known to my foreign reader than the feats of arms that came later.

The period between 1920 and 1930 was in fact years of ideological and military preparation for a struggle which did not come to an end before the victory over Japan in 1945.

During these ten years, Japan which was preparing for invading Manchuria, the first stage of aggression against China, robbed Korea more and more of its human and economic resources.

Oppression naturally gives rise to resistance, which, in its turn, calls out repression. In all parts of Korea peasants, students and, indeed, as in the port of Wonsan. dockers rose in revolt against the occupiers. The Japanese answered it by arresting, torturing and executing Korean patriots.

But these sporadic uprisings, although the participants fought courageously, did not scare the Japanese authorities seriously. Political resistance began to be organized secretly. In early 1920's the resistance united a certain number of groups of nationalists and progressives, that were joined by

communists who were encouraged and inspired by the success of the Soviet revolution in October 1917.

My Korean friends admit frankly that these nationalist and communist groups had no hold on the masses of people. Most conspicuous in their activity were backstage talks more given to personal and ideological quarrels than to the preparation for united political and military action.

Their sterile discussions did not in the least interest the patriotic and revolutionary people who, in the hope of mass participation in the struggle, waited for the appearance of a wise leadership giving them clear slogans and a simple doctrine which would take account of the concrete situation of Korea and of its people.

This leadership has been assumed faultlessly until today by a young Korean born into a revolutionary peasant family who gradually gained credence among the youth and then among the adults, and put right the shortcomings and errors of the divided and inefficient groups of resistance, stimulated their energies and made himself known to the Japanese the most redoubtable of all adversaries.

He is Marshal KIM IL SUNG who was born on April 15, 1912 at Mangyongdae, in the suburbs of Pyongyang, and later became President of the DPRK and hope of his compatriots in the north, south and abroad.

Like all other guests of this country, I visited the native straw-thatched cottage of the President transformed into a place of pilgrimage by the people's piety. The people did nothing more than consolidating the walls of this humble home, where one can still see some pieces of furniture, cooking utensils and household goods. The only thing which has changed is the environment. The cottage had stood in a marshy land at first. It is now surrounded by a magnificent park which is bustling with numerous

*Moran Hill*

local and foreign delegations coming to pay homage to him who everyone calls the great leader today with respect and affection.

Near the house, there is a kind of small museum where are on display photographs and souvenirs of the family of the President. One gets a better understanding of the road he chose and his total devotion to the cause of liberation by learning that not only his father and mother but his great-grandfather, grandfather, grandmother, brothers, uncles, cousins were all patriots who had fought, sometimes to be tortured and killed, for the independence of Korea and the liberty of its people.

The life of President KIM IL SUNG was, from his younger days, merged with the cause of the Korean revolution. Being a serious and gifted schoolboy, he left his native village at the age of 13, to join his father in China who was uniting his many emigrant compatriots for a revolutionary struggle. He entered a school founded by Korean nationalists to train cadres of the independence army.

In June 1926 his father deceased. The adolescent who was already exercising a noticeable influence on his schoolmates took his father's place in the struggle immediately.

Having already grasped the socialist ideas through his reading, he founded in the autumn of 1926 his first organization "Down-with-Imperialism Union". It was the first authentic communist organization in Korea. At first it only embraced schoolboys and young people from the neighbourhood. After a year, in 1927, he changed the name of his organization to the "Anti-Imperialist Youth League". This movement became the pivot of the "Young Communist League of Korea" of which he is also the founder.

During the summer of 1930 the young man, now possessing a keen intelligence and rare perspicacity, called at Kalun a meeting of cadres of the

youth movements which he had founded and set forth the line the Korean revolution would have to follow to attain its objectives.

He stated that the Korean revolution presented itself as an anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution. At the present stage, he affirmed, the motive force of the revolution was the workers and peasants, aided by the intellectuals, students, petty bourgeoisie, conscientious national capitalists and religious believers. The designated targets were, besides the Japanese imperialists, those Koreans who flattered and kowtowed to the enemy or enriched themselves by collaborating with him.

KIM IL SUNG advocated waging the organized armed struggle, emphasizing the necessity of forming solid ranks of military and political cadres who would lead the masses of people mobilized all over the country.

It is at that time that the future President of the DPRK advanced for the first time the Juche idea which has since been the constant guide line of his action and, finally, of his government.

This idea which is the object, both in Korea and in other countries, of multiple work of exegesis, will be studied in a more detailed manner at the end of this book.

Nevertheless, it is not useless to refer now to the proposition which the President himself enunciated in a few phrases: "To establish Juche means, in a word, to approach revolution and construction in one's own country with the attitude of a master. This means adhering to the independent stand of rejecting dependence on others and of using one's own brains, believing in one's own strength and displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, thus solving all problems for oneself on one's own responsibility. It also means maintaining the creative stand of opposing dogmatism and of applying the

universal principles of Marxism-Leninism together with the experiences of other countries to suit the historical conditions and national peculiarities of one's own country. The Juche idea is in full agreement with the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism; it came into being as a reflection of the new stage of development of the international communist movement and its essential requirements."

Relying on the hard cores of the Young Communist League and the Anti-Imperialist Youth League who furnished the cadres, the young leader now formed the Korean Revolutionary Army. This army was above all a political, paramilitary formation aimed at preparation of the anti-Japanese armed struggle. Its combatants harassed the enemy troops to get hold of weapons. At the same time, they conducted an intense political work within diverse anti-Japanese organizations to bring about the unity of action. They gained the confidence of the unorganized masses whom they educated politically.

In April 1932 when this preparatory work had borne encouraging results, KIM IL SUNG founded the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. The word "people" means that to the revolutionary cadres of the early days are now added a large number of elements coming from among the people: progressive workers and peasants and patriotic youths from all walks of life.

The war against the Japanese enemy now gained new strength. The sporadic uprisings that the Japanese used to crush were succeeded by a real war carried on according to a tested tactic and strategy, conducted by specialists.

One of the most apt decisions of KIM IL SUNG was to create guerrilla bases in the vast mountain regions of China. Set up in the areas where the relatively large population were committed to the resistance, these bases were moreover relatively easy

to defend. In a few months, they were cleared of the enemy's presence and transformed into liberated zones, the first of the kind in the country—placed under the authority of a revolutionary government which carried out different reforms such as the granting of political freedoms, agrarian reform, equality of the sexes, eight-hour working day, etc.

Seeing these bases expand and multiply, giving a "dangerous example" to the enslaved population, the Japanese launched large-scale operations to wipe them out. Under the leadership of KIM IL SUNG, the Revolutionary Army did not confine itself to defending their positions but, very well informed about the enemy's disposition, went more than once to attack by audacious sorties the enemy's rear bases and strong points left unprotected.

In 1936, the People's Revolutionary Army acquired great enough prestige among the masses for their leader to found the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland, the first anti-Japanese national united front of Korea. At the same time he prepared for the building of a Korean communist party which would furnish the united front with combatants politically well educated and militarily well trained.

KIM IL SUNG told the communists that the time of sterile discussions was past and that a new party would be created and function in an independent way conforming to the historical conditions and the specific reality of Korea. He stressed that it was imperative to reject categorically the flunkeyism which consisted in wishing to rely on great powers. His speech was understood and approved by the new generation of workers and peasants, who rallied behind their leader and, totally opposed to factional quarrels of some theoreticians of the Party, gave him unreserved support.

In July 1937 Japan unleashed the war with

China and, of course, intensified her pressure on Korea, whose resources she plundered more than ever. In order to get rid of the People's Revolutionary Army that menaced her rear, she mobilized more than 200,000 troops against it.

The Korean leader, taking account of the new situation and convinced of the inevitable nature of the defeat of Japanese imperialism, took care to preserve the revolutionary cadres who would be indispensable for the revival of Korea and decided to replace big battles with many a small attack everywhere in the border zones. The well-trained commandos of the People's Revolutionary Army appeared everywhere in Korea, blowing up bridges, railways, harbour facilities and military bases of the enemy and thus causing every possible loss to him. On August 9, 1945, the last assault started. In concert with the Soviet troops that had just entered a war against Japan, the Korean fighters who had been waging the struggle outside the country broke through the principal Japanese defence line and returned to their homeland where the people who were up now attacked the garrisons and bases of the occupiers everywhere.

On August 15, 1945, Japan capitulated and the Korean people regained freedom after 35 years of ruthless colonial rule. More than 100,000 working people gave in Pyongyang a triumphal reception to Marshal KIM IL SUNG and the fighters of liberation.

The years 1945-1979 belong to the contemporary history. This period witnessed the consolidation of the socialist system in the north and the persevering efforts of Marshal KIM IL SUNG to attain the peaceful reunification of his country, the southern half of which remains under the occupation of Americans.

These years witnessed the atrocious war of

1950-53 in which the army and people of the north displayed wonderful courage to save their motherland. These years witnessed socialist Korea, devastated and ruined, rise, rebuild and equip itself in the most modern way, become beautiful and develop at a speed which no other country could have kept up with.

Heroic in battles, worthy of all praises for its peaceful work, the Korea of Marshal KIM IL SUNG is promised a brilliant future.

## CHAPTER FOUR

# RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY

When the war ended in 1953, the economy of the northern half of the Republic was next to nothing.

A book published in Pyongyang under the title: *Korean Review* has a passage which speaks of the great effort the workers, peasants and technicians had to exert at the time. I would like to quote it here:

"Since everything had been destroyed by the war, they could hardly obtain a sound brick or nail.... However, they surmounted hardships, tightening their belts, and rehabilitated and constructed factories, enterprises, the rural economy, railways and educational and cultural establishments."

There is nothing in these very simple lines that is not exact. The rehabilitation of the economy progressed at a record speed in all sectors.

In accordance with the policy set forth by President KIM IL SUNG, the line of economic construction was "to give priority to the rehabilitation and development of heavy industry simultaneously with development of light industry and agriculture".

Giving priority to the rehabilitation and development of heavy industry was quite natural in a country that had to be rebuilt entirely. But I note with interest that in spite of extreme poverty, the

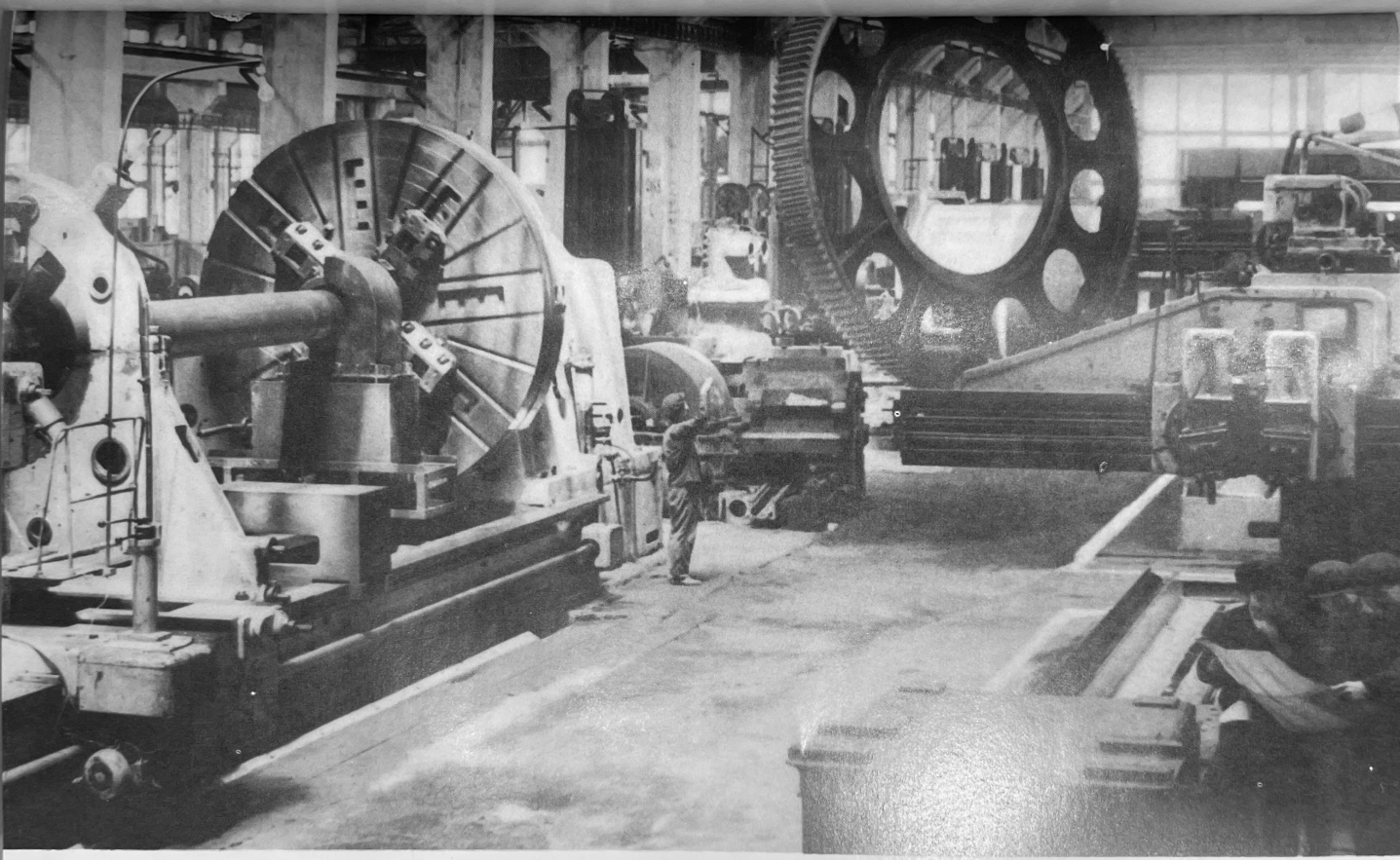
essential demand of the population for consumer goods was not neglected even for a moment. In all its decisions, the Government of the Republic showed the greatest concern for the well-being of the citizens, and for this very reason it enjoys the genuine support of the people.

Concerning heavy industry, the President defined the policy in these terms: "Our Party's line in the building of heavy industry was to create our own solid bases of heavy industry which would be able to produce at home most of the raw materials, fuel, power, machines and equipment needed for the development of the national economy by relying on the rich natural resources and sources of raw materials in our country."

Heavy industry, say the official documents, has not become powerful for its own sake, but for better service to the development of light industry and agriculture. From 1958 slogans known to everyone were put up, such as "Iron and machinery are kings of industry!" and "Let-one-machine-tool-make-machine-tools movement". These clear truths will be ridiculed by the Western politicians and technicians, who have mostly forgotten the conditions at least a century ago when industry was created in their own countries. In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, scarcely industrialized until 1945 and then devastated by the war, very simple slogans of this kind indicated the path to follow at every stage of nation-building.

What, then, are the "rich sources of raw materials" mentioned by the President of the DPRK? I pointed out in the previous chapter (but I consider it useful to recall it) that the underground riches concentrated for the most part in the north are almost **immeasurable**: inexhaustibly large reserves of soft coal and high-quality anthracite, deposits of iron ores amounting to billions of tons, rich

*Control post of a big factory*



*At a machine-building factory*

reserves of graphite, magnesite, tungsten, nickel, copper, lead, zinc, barite, silver, gold, etc.

These resources, some of which are only partially exploited as yet, place the DPRK among the leading world producers in certain domains. I am convinced from this that with the lapse of time, if peace is preserved in this Eldorado, this country and its diligent people will have a very brilliant future.

I would like to call the attention of ecologists to a little-known fact which shows that the exploitation of these natural wealth is conducted without causing damage to the environment. When he received a report that a large deposit of gold had been discovered in a mountain area well-known for its scenic beauty, Marshal KIM IL SUNG forbade its exploitation for fear that the natural surroundings worth preserving might be disfigured. This step deserves being publicized and praised.

I have obtained from the Korean institutions concerned the recent statistics (the final results of the year 1978) on the extraction of principal minerals and industrial production. I think that the reader will be interested in the facts and figures that follow:

**Coal output**—60 million tons in 1978 against 50 million in 1975;

**Iron ore output**—8 million tons in 1978 against 7.2 million in 1975;

**Steel output**—4.5 million tons in 1978 against 4 million in 1975.

Here is some information about the production of key industries:

### 1) Machine-building industry

The production for 1978 was 35,000 machine-tools, 25,000 lorries, 5,000 bulldozers, 1,000 large excavators, 100 diesel and electric locomotives.

To add to this, there are drilling machines capable of boring down to the depth of 5,000 metres, 10-cubic-metre excavators, 10, 25 and 40-ton lorries, 20-metre lathes, 20,000-ton ships, and various equipment for metallurgical, chemical and cement industries.

### 2) Chemical industry

The production of chemical fertilizer was four million tons in 1978 against three million tons in 1975, that of synthetic fibres rose to 100,000 tons in 1978 and vinalon fibres to 50,000 tons.

### 3) Textile industry

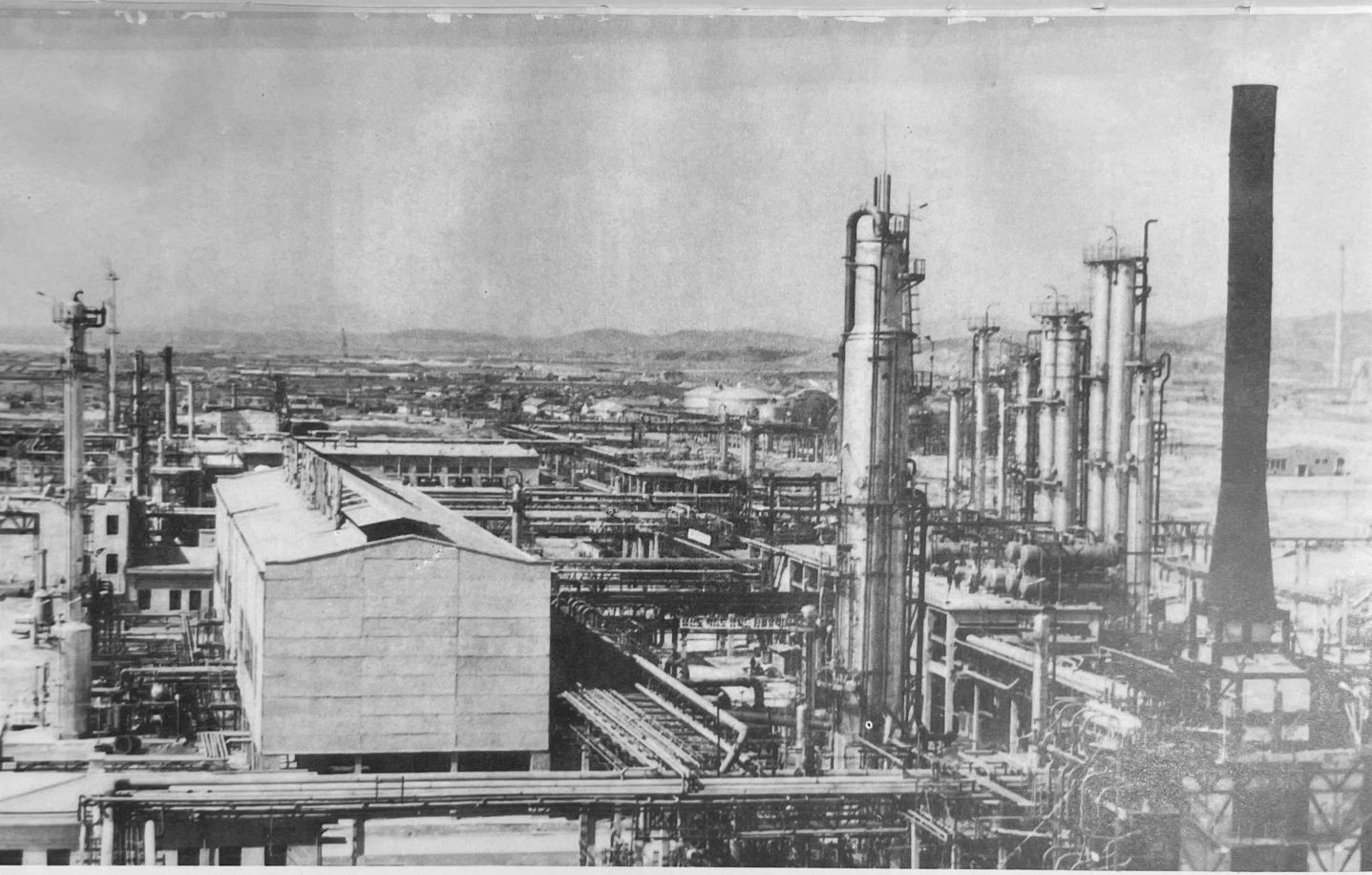
There are 350 textile mills, large and small, in this country.

In 1945 (at the end of Japanese annexation), the northern half of the Republic only had 15,000 spindles, which could supply 14 centimetres of fabrics to each inhabitant annually.

Today the textile industry has a million spindles in all, and the national production per head of the population is 40 metres of fabrics. Not only all the needs of the population (for clothing and for toilet and furniture use) are met, but a large quantity is available for export. It is appropriate to point out that the fabrics produced are all of excellent quality and some are very elegant.

### 4) Electric industry

In 1978 the output of electric power reached 35 billion kwh as compared with 28 billion in 1975, and this is produced by 130 power stations of different types.



*A large chemical complex with modern installations*

Thermal power and hydraulic power have equal shares (50-50) in the total output of electricity.

It is interesting to point out that today all cities and villages, however far-off, receive electric current. The rural electrification was completed in 1969.

**5) Transport**

The year 1978 was defined by President KIM IL SUNG as a year of transport. In response to his call, the working people of Korea launched a "200-day campaign for a revolution in transport".

The results of this "campaign" were remarkable: the daily traffic increased, in comparison with the same period of the preceding year, 1.2 times for railway transport, 1.1 times for road transport, and 2.3 times for maritime and river transport.

The shortcomings in transport revealed in 1977 were thus overcome, the economy received in good time necessary raw materials, fuel and equipment.

In particular, great efforts were exerted to complete the electrification of the railways. The electrification of trunk lines starting from Pyongyang was practically finished: line to Chongjin and Musan, line to Sinuiju and line to Sariwon. The other sections are actively switched over to electric traction.

Under the leadership of Marshal KIM IL SUNG the Government of the Republic built simultaneously big central light industry factories and thousands of local industry factories based on the local raw material resources.

I have mentioned above the rapid development of the textile industry. The food industry has not been neglected; one can see canneries of meat, fish and fruit and breweries all over the country.

The production of many other goods of daily

use has developed markedly. The DPRK manufactures radio and TV sets, refrigerators (every home has one), sewing machines, washing machines, and so on in large quantities.

Stress must also be laid on the very remarkable development of the shoe industry in all corners of the country. The materials used are leather, artificial leather and vinyl. Anyone can see that all the Koreans in the north are comfortably shod.

## AGRICULTURE

The image of Korea's agriculture can be obtained from the pleasing landscape which is to be seen along the road leading from the Pyongyang Airport to the capital: gently rolling hills with orchards here and there on their slopes, well-irrigated rice paddies, fields of maize, wheat, barley, and soya beans, all in full productiveness.

In this predominantly mountainous country, with its plain areas situated in the river basins of the central part hardly exceeding 300-500 square kilometres each, intensive farming is necessary to feed the population of over 18 million. Hence, many irrigation works, promotion of mechanization, deep ploughing, close planting, application of much fertilizer.

No inch of cultivable land is left unsown. Thus, along the roads, in uneven terrains, no more than a few metres long strips of cultivable land literally touching the stony hillsides, are planted with cereals. Cultivation on terraces is practised more and more. Sometimes around villages, bulldozers and other kinds of machines clear the ground of rocks and tree stumps, while lorries bring humus soil. This is an unremitting struggle between man and nature.

Livestock breeding done on the side by the

*A modern agriculture*

peasants has made spectacular progress at the modern bases built by the state. Some of the bases specialize in intensive raising of cattle, pigs and sheep. It is an impressive sight to see in the huge stables thousands of animals lined up to have a feed scientifically calculated in quality and quantity, which is brought to the mangers by belt conveyers. These bases are so clean that they look like clinics.

The big Mangyongdae Chicken Plant in the suburbs of Pyongyang is also highly automated, clean, and asepticized. As far as the eye can see, hundreds of thousands of hens (all of a white species) move about and cackle. They lay each 250 to 270 eggs a year and the plant's annual capacity is 100 million eggs. There are nearly a hundred smaller bases for raising chicken and ducks in the country.

### Here Are Some Facts and Figures Concerning Agriculture

The cultivated area of the DPRK is two million hectares, or 15 per cent of the total area of the country, with 2.5 million people engaged directly in agriculture.

The cereal production, which was seven million tons in 1974, reached 8.5 million tons in 1977, of which 4.4 million tons is rice and 3.9 million tons maize.

In the same year the per-hectare yield was seven tons for rice and six tons for maize. This was very impressive.

It is envisaged to harvest more than 8,850,000 tons of cereals in 1979.

In 1978 the production of fruit rose to 800,000 tons. The DPRK produces an enormous quantity of excellent apples and pears, a part of which is exported, and also peaches, apricots, grapes, strawberries, water-melons, etc.

The number of tractors in the service of agriculture rose in 1978 to six per 100 hectares of cultivated land in the plains and five in the mountainous areas. In 1973 the figures were respectively four and three. The annual production of tractors in the DPRK is 30,000.

Agricultural production benefits by the high level of mechanization and irrigation (the length of irrigation canals reaches several tens of thousands of kilometres), as well as by an increased application of fertilizers (nitrogenous, phosphatic, potassic and catalytic), more than one ton per hectare on an average.

What matters here is employing scientific methods of farming such as amelioration of land, use of select seeds, improvement of ploughing and sowing methods and planned scientific application of fertilizers.

Besides, we can point to the regular increase in the output of industrial crops and oil-bearing plants and of tobacco, excellent and aromatic, which is highly appreciated abroad.

In conclusion, I would like to make a brief remark on the fishing industry which is naturally important in this country surrounded by the sea on three sides. Large deep-sea fishing fleets consisting of all sizes of trawlers and modern refrigerator boats make it possible to catch great quantities of fish, such as *myongtae* (fish of mass consumption), herrings, mackerels, salmon trouts, tunas and cuttle-fish.

Large modern refrigerating plants have been built in important fishing centres such as Sinpo, Chongjin and Wonsan. Thanks to the multiplication of cold storages in every city, county and workers' district, and to the use of an ever increasing number of refrigerating waggons and cars, the people are supplied with fresh fish all the year round.

## FOREIGN TRADE

According to the official documents, the total volume of import and export was some 5,000 million dollars in 1978.

In 1975, 65 per cent of exports consisted of raw materials and 35 per cent manufactured goods. Very rapid development of industry in the DPRK is gradually changing this tendency in favour of export of finished products.

Principal exports are coal, steel, cement, non-ferrous metals, machine-tools, implements, electric equipment, fabrics, ceramics, marine products, cereals, fruit and vegetables.

Principal imports are coke, oil, crude rubber, ores of chrome and manganese, sulphur, plaster and some kinds of mechanical products.

Foreign trade of the DPRK is particularly active with socialist countries (above all with the USSR and China), but it is developing more and more with non-communist nations (Japan, Sweden and countries of the third world).

## REVENUE AND EXPENSE OF THE STATE

In 1978 the budgetary revenue of the state stood at 15,657 million *won* and the budgetary expense at 14,743 million *won*.

## PLANS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Seven-Year Plan (1961-67), prolonged until 1970, saw in 1967 a 3.1-fold increase in industrial

production as against 1960, the average annual rate of growth being 18 per cent.

The Six-Year Plan (1971-76) saw a 2.5-fold increase in gross value of industrial production compared with the preceding plan. The average annual rate of growth was about 16 per cent. A special effort was made for the production of consumer goods.

The Seven-Year Plan (1978-84) envisages a 2.2-fold growth of industrial production in comparison with the former plan.

The year 1984 is anticipated to turn out 56 to 60 billion kwh of electricity, 70 to 80 million tons of coal, 7.4 to 8 million tons of steel, one million tons of nonferrous metals, five million tons of chemical fertilizer, 12 to 13 million tons of cement, 800 million metres of fabrics, 10 million tons of cereals, 1.5 million tons of fruit, 3.5 million tons of marine products.

This plan foresees an approximately 12-per cent growth of production per annum.

The reader will certainly take note of the statistics concerning production in 1978 which I have furnished here. Then he will realize that the reasonable objectives of the current plan have a fair chance of attainment.

One will easily understand that the accomplishment of several production plans was accompanied more than once by serious difficulties. Marshal KIM IL SUNG did not conceal them but appealed to the civism and revolutionary spirit of the working people to surmount them.

In many messages addressed to the nation he pointed out with great frankness the shortcomings revealed in different spheres and showed the path to follow. In his *New Year Address* of January 1, 1978, for example, he stressed that the mining industry should be "kept definitely ahead", on which

*President Kim Il Sung pays a visit to the tractor workteam of a cooperative farm*

depended the success or failure of the economy, and that innovations should be brought about in the spheres of transport and machine building and in the agricultural sector. He reminded the leading personnel of their duty, calling them to struggle against bureaucratism which is the evil of the regimes where the state takes everything upon itself.

"All Party members...", he added, "should reject easy life and indolence...." The wording is serious, but this was accepted because of the immense prestige the Korean leader enjoys among his people.

## CHAPTER FIVE

# THE CULTURE THE ENTIRE PEOPLE ENJOY

Korea's socialist culture "categorically opposes the ideological-cultural infiltration of imperialism... and correctly takes over and develops the heritage of national culture in keeping with socialist reality".

It can be said that those two principles are maintained in all aspects of cultural construction—education, science, literature, and art.

Education is "an important work to bring up the youth and children to be ardent revolutionaries who are knowledgeable, virtuous and healthy".

Education lays great stress on political and moral aspects. It instils in youths the great guiding idea (the Juche idea whose principles I mentioned previously) defined by Marshal KIM IL SUNG and defends the socialist orientation of the state.

In their lectures the teachers put **"emphasis on things Korean"** and inspire the policy of the Workers' Party of Korea.

In education, therefore, stress is put first on valuing the Korean culture with a 5,000-year-old history. Very few countries have fine teachers who consider their job to be honourable and sacred. Few countries have also those youths who study so hard, attentively follow what their teachers say and act, and cultivate all virtues to be completely sound in every aspect, and who have no ambition

but to perfect themselves so as to serve their country better.

In the schools of the DPRK really competent workers are reared through a close combination of general studies and basic technical training, theory and practice, education and productive labour, studies and socio-political activities. In this way they train excellent specialists and good citizens.

From 1972 education was compulsory which includes one-year preschool education and ten-year schooling. As a result, the younger generation receive at state expense an education of full 11 years (one year of preschool, four years of primary school and six years of secondary school), thus growing to be workers possessing a good intellect, lofty morality and practical knowledge.

At present the DPRK has 8.6 million children and students (nearly half the population)—3.5 million children of nursery schools and kindergartens and 5.1 million pupils and students of primary and secondary schools and higher education institutes. The DPRK asserts itself to occupy the first place in the world with regard to educational expense per inhabitant.

At the time of liberation in 1945 this country had not a single college, but at present nearly 150 institutions of higher learning, more than 500 higher specialized schools and higher technical schools are harmoniously distributed in the capital and local cities.

Each province has more than one technical college, agricultural college, medical college, normal college, teachers training college and political science college. Therefore, most students study all subjects to satisfy local demands. Needless to say, every student receives stipend from the state. As a result of such remarkable efforts, more than 700,000 native cadres have been trained to manage and

direct state organizations, scientific and cultural establishments, factories, enterprises and cooperative farms. In the near future, a goal will be attained of training one million cadres, one cadre per eight workers.

Concurrently with the study of class type, the DPRK develops the educational system which allows studying while working. This system is assured by colleges and higher technical schools in factories, by night and correspondence courses. So the working people continue with higher education without slackening production.

At the same time, there exist a special educational system for adults who could not attend school in their childhood for many reasons, and possibility to attend secondary schools for workers of 40 years and upwards to acquire the level of a secondary school graduate. This adult education is very brisk: the press, radio and TV often give publicity to classes of adults of both sexes, all being eager to study like youths and perfect themselves. Socialist Korea is proud of itself as a great school....

In the northern half of the Republic which attaches importance to sciences there are the Academy of Sciences and academies of social science, light industry, agriculture, medicine, pedagogy and their branches and institutes. All scientific research institutes have well-equipped pilot plants, laboratories and studios.

Great successes have been obtained by researchers—the process of continuous steel-making from granulated iron with anthracite and production of vinalon fibre from limestone, etc.

Agronomists have produced new varieties of seed suitable to the climatic conditions and soil. They have introduced new, advanced methods of farming and created new scientific foundations in

*Children in class*

many domains of agricultural production. I may say that great achievements have been made in the domains of biology, medicine and physics and considerable progress in semi-automation and automation of processes of production.

As for literature and arts, they constitute, as Korean authorities say, "a powerful weapon serving solely in the revolution". The literary and art line embodies the Juche idea of Marshal KIM IL SUNG and maintains a "Party spirit and working-class spirit" and "creative methods of socialist realism".

Writers and artistes create works whose subjects are "revolutionary traditions, socialist revolution and socialist construction, south Korean revolution and national reunification".

Literary and art works, therefore, deal with social and political problems; they do not at all treat the "frivolous" and "futile" subjects nor those contradicting the Party's line. Many writers and artistes are depicting social struggles against former landlords who oppressed peasants, the liberation struggle against the Japanese, and anti-American struggles in the 50's, etc. One can judge this by the most famous films, novels and operas: *A Flower Girl, Sea of Blood, The Fate of a Self-Defence Corps Man, Song of Paradise* and *A True Daughter of the Party.*

Into Korea's modern operas are largely introduced national dances, *pangchang*, and three-dimensioned decorations, which are at their zenith. Artistes are highly respected by the public for their excellent performance.

In the cinematographic domain I want to praise the documentaries which splendidly describe the most beautiful aspects of the DPRK and fully show the fine successes in construction. I add that Korea's national dances are recommended by the quality

of their choreography, and the gracefulness and mastership of dancers.

In the DPRK the circus has become a true national art of which the people are very proud. The principal troupes, especially the one in the capital, often give performances in foreign countries, recording great successes as at home. I can point out that among those most appraised are acrobatics, trickery and jugglery.

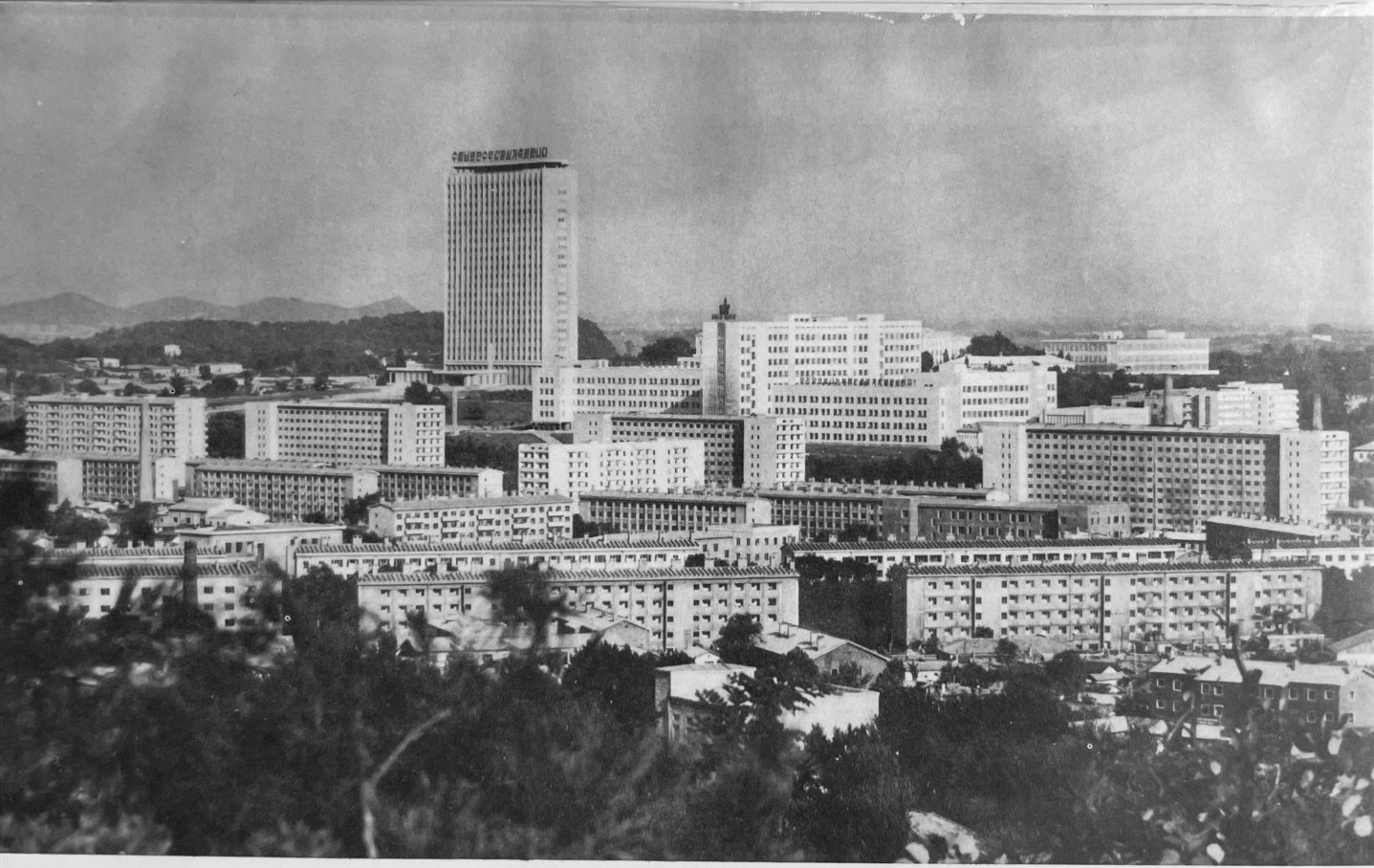
Let me also permit to express my wish that the important painters, sculptors, architects, decorators, etc. whose works arouse the admiration of all visitors to the DPRK should enjoy as the best reward to their great talent a particular citation in guidebooks, museums, and on monuments.

Painters, for example, do not limit their representation to the revolutionary and militant themes. They depict landscapes, natural scenes, animals, dancers and even fairies as they please. Also in socialist countries it is not prohibited to dream....

Mass cultural activities, the basis of literature and arts, develop across the country.

In Pyongyang alone there are many cultural establishments, beautiful and modern, such as the People's Palace of Culture, the Grand Theatre, the Students and Children's Palace, and a magnificent opera theatre which I already dwelt on.

In all districts of the cities, villages, enterprises, factories, mines, ports, etc. exist circles of literature, music, dance, photograph and model aviation. They are briskly operated by numerous young and middle-aged citizens, who are provided by the state with all necessary facilities including various materials and musical instruments (accordions, guitars, violins, pianos, etc.). The authorities organize exhibitions, festivals, concours aimed at encouraging literary and artistic activities and selecting fine circle members. Those who have particular dispositions receive



*Kim Il Sung University, palace of sciences*

lessons from fine professors and can enter, if they prove talented, local and national troupes.

As I said somewhere else, future reliable artistes who gave me admiration at children's palaces have every chance to become brilliant careers, thanks to the provident care of the state.

Physical culture and sports are also honourable in the DPRK. According to what Marshal KIM IL SUNG said, they are aimed at "preparing all the people solidly for labour and national defence".

I appreciate the frankness of Korea's great leader, my eminent friend. It is the duty of the state to cultivate intellect, morality and physique among the youth and all other citizens who have a mission of serving the country. An "impotent" people, repugnant to efforts, is a people doomed to defeat and slavery. That is why I liked sports myself very much in my young years, and encouraged by every means to do the practices of sports and physical culture in Cambodia, without imposing them. In the documentary films shot before 1970 in my country are found brisk stadium, sports grounds, swimming-pools, etc. This shows the success in the domain of mass sports which make the physique of a nation beautiful and strong. I am proud of this.

In the DPRK the highly disciplined workers practise national gymnastics, physical exercises at breaks of work, collective training by means of running, and enter competitions of volleyball, basketball, tennis, swimming, etc. on a mass scale.

Enterprises, factories, cooperative farms manage their own sports circles.

The state supplies sports equipment and materials.

A most brilliant combination of culture and sports is the mass display practised by thousands

of participants on great occasions—birthday of the great leader, Head of State, anniversary of the revolution, and visits of high-ranking officials of foreign countries. Together with the mass display which requires a long, complex preparation and a perfect organization of time, the panel represents the portraits of prominent personages, political slogans, and artistic motives, appearing all at once in a part of the stadium, one following the other quickly. This is the reconstitution of genuine "puzzles". The spectacles are really beautiful.

Frequently, the play of panels proceeds with the movements of tens of thousands of athletes, civilians and soldiers, presenting very graceful effects.

The mass display celebrated the participants of the "Spartakiad" (National Athletic Meet) of Czechoslovakia in the 30's. Korean friends have raised it as well as the "play of panels" onto a very high artistic level. Cambodian sportsmen followed their examples, only until 1970, of course.

Prior to closing this chapter, I want to point out a school of particular character rearing "continuers of the revolution", as they say in Korea.

It is the "Red Flag" Mangyongdae Revolutionary School that accepts children of the "revolutionary martyrs" who fell on the fields of glory for the independence of their country.

Marshal KIM IL SUNG personally established this school in 1947. Its mission is to give its students general, political and military education to bring them up as most dependable political and military cadres for future Korea.

The students strictly observe discipline, practise exercises designed to fortify and harden themselves, learn how to overcome difficulties and receive a strict political education. This school, which has been functioning since 32 years ago, is a reserve:

*Pyongyang Mansudae Theatre*

a number of graduates have become important cadres of the Party, state and army. Needless to say, all the youths will be devoted wholly to the Marshal who has given them everything, and to their Party and country.

I think I must clearly tell that the students of the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School are leading a rigorous life calling for the display of all their force but it is not inhuman at all. The dormitory of the students is comfortable, their classes and studios are well equipped, their food is good, and their instructors look after them with care and affection. Responsible workers remember that they are dealing with children and youths, and so they demand them to do as much as they can.

Is it necessary to tell that Korean youngsters consider it a great honour to be enrolled in this school and that their families, too, are proud of seeing them enter it?

## CHAPTER SIX

# A HAPPY LIFE

How are the Koreans living under the present socialist system? Needless to say, they are better off than before, and will be still better off in five or ten years to come. I can say this because through my visits to the DPRK over 14 years I have been convinced of the absolute correctness of President KIM IL SUNG's declaration: Steadily raising the people's material and cultural standards of living is the supreme principle that governs the activities of the Government of the Republic.

Recently, with a view to reaffirming this point, I asked my Korean hosts to let me visit some workers' houses. I can quite imagine how certain Western readers will react. They will say:

"No doubt, the Korean authorities showed Prince Sihanouk around better houses than those which common people live in. In this way he must have been made to have an incorrect understanding of the average living standards of Koreans."

Such was not the case, however. Korean friends performed the "play" very correctly. Because they were very honest, first of all, and, as for workers' houses, as in all other fields, they didn't hesitate to show their achievements to anybody.

With my family and relatives I visited two flats in a many-storeyed apartment house in Chollima Street situated in the centre of the capital. This

*An orchestra of Juvenile Corps members*

building, which they proudly explained had been built in six months in 1970, was little different from the numerous apartments which we could see while strolling along the streets of Pyongyang. The flats were functional, and the verandas where there were flower-pots were pleasing to the eye. As elsewhere, an avenue ran in front of the building and there were flower beds kept with great care.

Apparently, the dwellers of the flats had been informed of our call. So they might have cleaned with special care the rooms which were always tidied up. Anyhow, I found them in their best clothes. We stayed a bit longer at one of the flats. The host offered us a snack of beer and cider—favourite drinks in Korea—and some fruit and cakes.

We looked around the modest flat. The polished floor of the rooms was so clean and shiny that we took off our shoes the way people in this country do, lest we might soil it. The flat was for a family of four (two of them were college students), and it had a small door, two rather wide and sunny rooms, a kitchen with a small veranda and a closet where there were a bathtub and shower, a washstand and a flush toilet. The other flat we visited briefly had a similar structure.

As for the furniture, each of the flat had a small desk, a sofa and two bookshelves, a dining table and chairs, a colour-TV set, an old but durable sewing-machine, a refrigerator in the kitchen and so on. These were all Korean made. On the walls were some ornaments and coloured pictures.

Like Korean friends we sat cross-legged on cushions and chatted drinking beverage or eating cakes. (The bedding is folded in the daytime and spread only at night to sleep.)

The host and hostess were "middle" working people of over 40. The husband was a railway worker and his wife a medical worker. They were

a good couple who behaved in such a courteous manner that can be found only in old Asian nations. This was a moderate flat, of course, but it was the best abode they had ever lived in; they had had a hard time after the war of 1950-53. (Pyongyang was a mass of ruins at the time of ceasefire.)

They said, "We have no worry about money or jobs." They were sincerity itself. Living without anxiety about their material lives is a precious social progress to them who had so many hardships in their youth.

Allow me to remark in parentheses here.

Some Western readers may be surprised at my deep concern about and my great emphasis on the workers' living conditions in the DPRK. They will say, "In our country workers live generally in nice, convenient houses. They have all sorts of modern comfort and even private cars. What is so extraordinary about the Korean workers just leading decent lives?"

But, my esteemed friends, I only want to advise you to make a comparable comparison if you want to.

It is true that most of the workers in the Western countries are leading rather good lives. However, some people, particularly, the many unemployed, the aged, immigrant workers and others at the bottom of the "consumer society" which is sweet to the rich but heartless to the poor are leading very miserable lives. According to the data published by American statistical institutes, in the US which is supposed to be a rich country, there are 17 million poor people whose annual income is less than 5,000 dollars; one-third of the "coloured people", mostly young ones, are out of jobs and subsist on public relief. Millions of "white children" in infertile areas live on dog food because they have no money.

In the DPRK there are neither the rich nor the poor. Unemployment, begging, poverty and prostitution which always accompanies the former are unknown. Even the commonest people have their own houses, eating well and dressing well and even save money. The society itself has no "lowest class".

You had better reconsider the achievements made by the DPRK Government in the context of the conditions of Asia and the third world. I don't hesitate to affirm that I am not wrong if I claim that the average living standards of Korean workers (Later I will give the data on the social benefits provided to the people by the DPRK Government.) have become **an ideal that the overwhelming majority of the population on the globe is unable to attain.** Many delegations from the third world countries which visit the DPRK cannot but admit that the popular and democratic Korean state is exemplary in comparison with their countries; they envy the successes she has scored in all the social, cultural and sports spheres, not to speak of such tremendous achievements in the economic field.

As Cambodia's former Head of State I also did everything in my power to build Cambodia more beautifully and develop her along modern lines, and I feel that she approached this goal to some extent, although she has not the mineral resources which are a treasure of the DPRK and an asset that promises for a brilliant future.

Now, because of the blunders made by abnormal and sanguinary ideologies, Cambodia has been destroyed and her population has dwindled to one half. However, when the people request me to restore our devastated country I am determined to receive much help from Korean engineers, specialists and other experts on the President KIM IL SUNG's approval. They know better than

anybody else how to turn a devastated country into an advanced country good to live in.

I referred above to the social benefits the state bestows upon the working people or the entire people.

It is not useless, at this stage of my insufficient study, to point out that the living conditions of the farmers are the same as the urban dwellers'. In order to grasp this, you should visit some villages which are rising in the countryside. All the rural dwellings are two or three or one-storeyed brick houses where several families live. They have flats of different size according to the number of their members, which are convenient and nice to live in, and also furnished with electric apparatuses. Electricity has found its way into all the farm villages. Every rural village has a school, a polyclinic and a club house. After the day's work the agricultural working people and their sons and daughters take part in cultural activities (songs, dances, plays, music). There are sports facilities everywhere which are widely used.

Allow me to refer to an interesting fact in this regard. One evening I saw *Song of Paradise* at an opera-house in Pyongyang, which is comparable in every respect to any world-famous theatres.

This music and dance tale, as its creators said, was a "hymn to the advantages of the Korean socialist system which has turned the country into a people's paradise". The directors' and choreographers' aesthetic taste and feeling and the singers' splendid voices, excellent choruses, well-directed graceful dances and beautiful scenes—all this made an excellent piece of art out of the opera which was political.

On the left of the stage was a screen which showed the translated lines of the actors, and I read the words of little interest uttered by an "old

farmer of the flowering cooperative farm" as he was given quite a lot of grain and money.

He says, "Well, well. There is nothing I need to buy with it now, because I've been given free a new modern house furnished with a television set and even a refrigerator."

This may sound incredulous to the ear of the Western audience (because they have both rich and poor farmers), but the Korean audience, the great majority of whom are common working people, give an enthusiastic applause to his remarks. This applause is for **the fact everyone knows**; it is an expression of respect for President KIM IL SUNG who has brought about such a change in the farmers' living conditions.

It is not futile either to add that large numbers of farm machines such as tractors, harvester combines, chemical sprayers have made farming much easier. In 1977, they harvested 8,500,000 tons of grain, an all-time high!

The DPRK is a socialist state where all the working people get their living allowances according to the quality and quantity of work done. The policy of the Workers' Party of Korea is to increase their living allowances as production and productivity grow and, at the same time, to narrow down the difference in the living allowances so as to ensure complete social equality.

As I have already mentioned, the working people's living allowances are but a part of their income. In order to understand their actual living conditions it is necessary to take into account the work done by the state at its own expense for the common interests of the public and an enormous amount of additional social benefits.

In the countryside, for example, the irrigation facilities and threshing grounds and storehouses are built at state expense. The same is the case with

the dwelling houses, schools, kindergartens and nurseries.

The agricultural tax in kind was abolished 15 years ago; farm machine rent was done away with and the state purchasing prices of farm products increased many times.

With the systematic increase of agricultural production and the state purchasing prices of farm products, the farms get more income and the farmers are distributed more products and money. During the period from 1963 to 1975, for instance, their share of grain increased by 72 per cent and that of cash by 172 per cent. These figures enable us to clearly understand what the "old farmer of the flowering cooperative farm" meant in the play, which I quoted and explained above.

In fact, the farmers' livelihood improves steadily. They receive exactly the same social benefits as those of the urban dwellers so that their living standards are catching up with the latter's. No wonder they say they are in a "paradise" now, because they used to live in crumbling hovels and led miserable lives in the past, exploited by the avaricious landlords and plundered by the outrageous Japanese, and they were so hard pressed immediately after the war against the US imperialists (1950-53).

The additional benefits the working people receive exceed their living allowances. I must first mention the fact that the taxation system was abolished in 1974; thus the DPRK became **the first tax-free country in the world.**

What is more, the prices of commodities are going down steadily. (They were cut on 16 occasions over the period from 1953 to 1974.) Special attention is being directed to daily necessities. As from March 1, 1974, the prices of manufactured goods were lowered 30-50 per cent on an average.

*A popular grocer's shop*

The three very important problems which are vital to the working people have been solved satisfactorily.

**Food:** the state supplies the working people with grain at cheap prices. It is bought in the countryside at high prices. (For example, the price of rice is seven or eight times lower than that at which it is purchased from the farmers.)

**Clothing:** the state bears much of the costs of clothes for the children and students. Families with many children are made to pay less.

**Housing:** the state's efforts in this field are impressive, indeed. It builds houses and provides them to the working people **free of charge.** Moreover, it bears a large part of the costs of heating, water, electricity and fuel. The house rent is no more than 0.3 per cent of their living allowances.

In addition to these, Korea's working people enjoy great social and cultural benefits. **Education is free** at primary, secondary and tertiary schools (universities).

**Free medical care is in force.** Medical check-ups, medicines and treatment at hospitals are all free. They stay at rest and convalescence homes also free of charge.

In general, **paid holidays** are one month. Women are entitled to a paid maternity leave of over two and a half months. Mother workers with more than three children work only six hours a day but are paid the living allowances for eight hours of work.

**Social insurance and security systems** are in full force.

Men receive old-age pensions at 60 and women at 55. Both temporarily and completely disabled persons also enjoy the benefits of social insurance and medical treatment.

One can enumerate many other things on the very remarkable social efforts made by President

KIM IL SUNG's Government for the good of the people. One can also point out that the supply of commodities is planned so perfectly that nothing runs out of stock. The commercial network spreads out to rural villages and even to the remotest mountain areas and the prices are uniform throughout the country.

As I am no specialist I cannot dwell any further on the social work done by Korean friends. I only hope that some materials I have presented here in general terms will be helpful to my readers in fully understanding the actual life of the industrious and courageous Korean people resolved to entrust everything to their national leader who has brought them this happiness, for which they are proud of themselves as a happy people.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

# CAPITAL CITY AND RECREATION GROUNDS

Pyongyang became the capital of Koguryo, the then strongest power in Korea, in 427 when the king moved from Jian, Northeast China to this place.

You will probably want a brief explanation of the Koguryo dynasty.

As a military power, Koguryo trained the people in horsemanship and archery from childhood and continually expanded her territory.

The people were excellent not only in military affairs but also in peaceful undertakings, especially in agriculture, handicraft, trade and arts.

Koguryo conducted extensive commercial interchanges with many regions of China and had a very great economic and cultural influence on Japan. Her emigrants in Japan disseminated silk-weaving and tanning. Also, a Korean monk taught the Japanese how to make paper and black ink and how to build a water mill.

Koguryo became weak because it suffered repeated invasions by the Chinese dynasties of Sui and Tang and was harassed by the armed forces of the neighbouring Kingdom of Silla, and also because of her own internal contradictions. She collapsed at last in 668 after 70 long years of war.

There are impressive relics showing the high level of her development, among them, the remains

of the magnificent Anhak Palace at the foot of Mt. Taesong, the grand Changan (Pyongyang) Wall and a number of kings' tombs with excellent mural paintings.

In her old capital Jian there still exists a four-sided, six-metre high stone monument. It was erected by King Changsu in 414 to convey to posterity the accomplishments of his father King Kwanggaeto (the name literally means that he expanded the territory greatly), the 19th king of Koguryo. The monument bears a long epitaph describing the royal family line and the national strength of Koguryo which then swayed over the vast areas stretching from the Liaodong Plain now in China to the whole of the Korean peninsula.

Pyongyang which countered many invasions by feudal neighbours and other countries for many centuries has become the capital of the Korean revolution. When the country was liberated in 1945, one of the first things President KIM IL SUNG conceived was to lay out anew the embankment of the Potong River which flows through the capital. When Pyongyang was taking a new look noticeably, the 1950-53 war broke out. The city was levelled by US bombing.

Nothing was left intact in this city of a long history except several beautiful historical relics—the Taedong and Potong Gates, the Ulmildae and Ryongwang Pavilions (rebuilt), old wall sites and tombs—plus some other sites of commercial interests.

Pyongyang was rebuilt, but it was not just restored to former state; it has been transformed into a magnificent and harmonious city like a garden in accordance with a bold plan conceived by President KIM IL SUNG.

Today Pyongyang has a network of spacious thoroughfares running in all directions, along with clean sidewalks lined with trees of thick foliage,

*Part of Pyongyang*

the like of which, as far as I know, can hardly be found in any other big towns in the world. Public buildings along the streets are situated well off the roads and veiled by shady trees so that they never look oppressively bulky.

Among these edifices are the magnificent Assembly Hall, the People's Palace of Culture, the Indoor Stadium, the Students and Children's Palace, the Revolution Museum, the February 8 House of Culture, the Art Gallery, the Historical Museum, the Opera Theatre, KIM IL SUNG University and a polytechnical institute, and so on.

On one of the hillocks which form a chain in the middle of the city stands the bronze statue of Marshal KIM IL SUNG flanked by two groups of statues portraying unsung revolutionary heroes on an arduous but resolute march towards "bright future". On another hillock soars the bronze statue of winged Chollima on an elaborate, steep pedestal, symbolizing the heroic mettle of the Korean people.

On both sides of the streets lined with well attended trees, lawns and flowers are residential quarters with 5 to over 13-storeyed convenient architectural structures which, of course, have been built recently. The new structures are more elegant for their balconies and buoyant and steep roofs supported by the columns of their verandas. High-rise buildings are furnished with elevators.

These innumerable buildings have nothing in common with the expensive awe-inspiring "barrack-type" structures in the distant suburbs of European towns. The buildings of different sizes and designs have spacious lawns and gardens in between, where children can play.

In general every block is well provided with specialized shops stocked with cloth and dresses, all kinds of utensils, electric appliances for domestic

use, furniture, toys, cosmetics, foodstuffs and miscellaneous goods.

Motor traffic is not congested. You can see cars for officials and diplomats as well as many lorries and military vehicles, but virtually no private cars.

Many buses and trolley-buses are provided for the people in general, and especially in rush hours their traffic is heavy. Passengers wait in order at the bus stops and get on in turn. They need not any "call number". A voluntary discipline prevails everywhere in this country, so you cannot see anyone quarrelling, stealing a ride or scrambling for a ride.

The metro is another means of mass transport. Metro stations built deep underground have marble walls with beautiful adornments and are provided with steep, high-speed escalators. Underground traffic, too, is not congested, though I am not sure what it is like in the hours when factory and office workers are off work.

When they go rather short distance, all Koreans, men or women, young or old, civilians or armymen, walk, which is an exercise oldest but unfortunately forgotten by many of our contemporaries in "developed" countries. It really pleased me to see strong and healthy people nimbly walking along straight streets and highways with smiles on their faces, without any sign of fatigue. They used to say, "Walking after a day's work is a kind of rest."

Pyongyang has a population of 1,500,000, and the area of lawn per capita is as much as 48 square metres. Maybe this is the record figure in the world.

The city is in parks. It has many pleasure parks and recreation grounds—the Moran Hill which is called a "Peony Hill" and on which stands the Ulmildae Pavilion, the white granite promenades on the Taedong-gang River with a big bridge over it, the Youth Park with a merry-go-round and other

amusement facilities which can accommodate tens of thousands of children, the recreation grounds on the Potong River, swimming pools, zoological and botanical gardens, the grand Taesongsan Pleasure Park, a sea of foliage, the pavilion which commands a panoramic view of Pyongyang, the Moranbong Park and the like.

As I said in the preceding chapter one must not miss a visit to beautiful Mangyongdae which the Korean people with the feeling of gratitude to President KIM IL SUNG have built up around the straw-thatched house where he was born. Every day thousands of Koreans come to this place of pilgrimage and the women guides explain them about the humble family line of the national leader and his brilliant life. In Mangyongdae there is a revolution museum which moves people. On the top of the Mangyong Hill, one can find the spot where the President in his primary school days used to be imbued with revolutionary ideas by his father.

Little is known about the pollution-free industries built outside residential quarters in the capital. Most of them are heavy industries—a large-scale automated thermal power station, machine-building factories, and building materials plants. As for light industries there are factories producing textile goods, utensils, electric appliances, shoes and a variety of foodstuffs.

Also in the suburbs of the capital new large bases (including hothouses) have been built for the production of fresh vegetables, fruits, beef and pork, poultry and eggs.

At a little distance, about 15 kilometres away, from Pyongyang, the capital, there is a Juvenile Corps camp with excellent accommodations for children. Though I had previously visited the camp, typical of its kind, I dropped in at it again.

The camp occupies an area of six hectares and

has a floor space of 18,000 square metres. It consists of three big buildings—two living quarters and one dining hall. In the camp there are a wide playground and gardens where the campers can walk, play and take physical exercise. On a fairly large lake one can see dozens of boats floating buoyantly all day long, robust boys rowing them, calling and shouting at each other.

The hall of the main building is equipped with a piano, a colour television set, violins and many other musical instruments. When we entered the recreation room, the director proudly explained his camp to us. According to him, the camp accommodates 1,000 little campers during the five-month camping season every year. He explained that President KIM IL SUNG personally chose the camping site for them and has visited it three times already.

I looked over several children's rooms on each floor. Generally, each room had six beds, a lavatory and a shower bath whose nozzles were set low to suit the little guests. It would be impossible for me to describe all the neatness of the iron bedsteads, mattresses, bedclothes, etc.—neatness pervading the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as the order of things.

I saw the performance by the camp's juvenile art troupe (There is no other better way of calling them, though they were only little children of 8 to 11). They played an accordion quartet excellently. And then there was a male chorus of a Cambodian song composed in honour of me by one of our students studying in Pyongyang. And that was followed by a female chorus of the song *Phnom Penh,* composed by me, sung to the accompaniment of accordion and harmonica. In admiration I thanked the young artistes and their instructors who were teaching the little talents skilfully. When we came out

of the recreation room we met girls with big ribbon flowers on their heads. They held each of my suite by the hand and led them to the playground or lakeside (My friend Barre who never expected it felt so shy that he withdrew his hand). I think children in this wide world play much in the same way.

In socialist Korea they show a special concern for the young people, the future of their country. The President likes to be called "benevolent father" best of all titles.

Now, let me tell you about the beautiful bathing resort (of the people) in Wonsan on the east coast.

In recent years I have visited it several times and, each time I found it changing more beautifully. Wonsan in good seasons is visited by tens of thousands of working people on holiday. They can be seen strolling with their families along highways through flower gardens in full bloom towards the lovely sandy beach. All those people are provided with accommodations (free of charge) at many state-run hotels furnished with modern conveniences. Furthermore, they are said to be served with delicious meals.

Both the inhabitants and visitors are in good clothes and in high glee. There are many shops and supply is good.

From Pyongyang both Koreans and foreigners come here by motorway to spend pleasant week-end holidays, staying in Korean-style pavilions or places of abode built deep in woods near the sea.

If you want to see how big and beautiful Wonsan is, it will be best to take a cruise on one of the pleasure boats which are convenient and dazzling white. These ships are always full, for the visitors to this summer resort like them. Their crew, both junior and senior, wear elegant "yachtsmen's" uniforms. They offer every convenience to

their guests, making them feel merry and comfortable.

Looking at the shore from the sea, you cannot but admire the harmonious coastal landscape. From there you can see at a glance the whole picture of the rows of big and small buildings facing the sea and boasting of their architectural beauty from beyond the spacious flowery seaside square thronged with strolling people. From afar, it reminds me of the Sables d'Olonnes in Vendée, France.

There is a spectacle on the sea, too. Pleasure boats sail across one another's course, the holidayers aboard gesticulating and exchanging friendly greetings. Meantime, a small "gunboat"-type naval vessel cruises, drawing an 8 threading through the peaceful boats. It must be guarding the security of peaceful visitors or else performing its regular patrol duty.

This is my recollection of some aspects of the life and recreation of my Korean friends, grown-ups and children. If you want to know more about this wonderful country, I hope you will benefit by referring to *The Democratic People's Republic of Korea* (an illustrated monthly published in French and English), *Korea Today* (a monthly magazine in French and English) and *The Pyongyang Times* (a weekly paper in French and English).

The Foreign Languages Publishing House (Address: Sosong District, Pyongyang) can help you in obtaining many books and documents on the DPRK and the works of President KIM IL SUNG in different foreign languages.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

## THERE IS ONLY ONE KOREA

Since Japan's surrender, Marshal KIM IL SUNG has waged a fierce struggle for the reunification of his country.

This is, he wrote, "the greatest and most pressing national task for the entire Korean people at present. Its solution brooks not a moment's delay."

I wholly share the serious preoccupation of my eminent friend. I have never ceased to claim and will never cease to claim that the division of Korea, caused by a great power, is a crime against the Korean population and menace to peace.

For thousands of years, Korea has been a homogeneous nation, its people living in one and the same territory, speaking the same language and sharing the same culture and traditions. Political unification dates back to the beginning of the 10th century when the dynasty of Koryo (the country was so called: Koryo—Korea) created a powerful centralized state, the predecessor of the present Korea.

Even the Japanese, when they annexed Korea in 1910, did not divide it into the north and the south: they occupied and exploited the whole country indiscriminately.

The present tragedy of Korea began after the termination of Japanese occupation.

In December 1943, in Cairo, a declaration adopted by the leaders of Britain, America and China

(Jiang Jieshi) stated that "in due course Korea will become free and independent". Marshal Stalin, in the name of the Soviet Union, accepted the Cairo Agreement. But in 1945, upon the American proposal, it was decided that after Japan's surrender Korea be divided into two military zones with the 38th parallel as the line of demarcation. The southern part would be occupied by the United States and the northern part by the Soviet Union.

Now let the facts speak for themselves. There are no foreign forces long since in the DPRK. The Soviet occupation troops withdrew unilaterally in 1948. The Chinese Volunteers who had come to defend the security of their country when the American forces had approached the Chinese frontiers and threatened to invade China, returned home as soon as the 1950-53 war ended.

In south Korea, on the contrary, the Americans maintain, despite President Carter's election commitment, over 42,000 troops equipped with the latest weapons including, above all, hundreds of nuclear bombs and rockets with nuclear-head as well as a large air force.

By giving an aid amounting to billions of dollars, the United States has enabled south Korea to maintain an army 700,000 strong, of which over 300,000 are the mercenaries who joined the American expeditionary corps and fought in Vietnam from 1964 to 1973.

It is evident for me and for all of us that the financial and military effort made by the United States in south Korea is not only aimed at shoring up the tottering regime of General Pak Jung Hi against his own fellow countrymen or against an improbable "invasion from the north", but also at utilizing south Korean territory as a vast military base in case of conflict with China or the Soviet Union.

One can therefore declare that peace is jeopardized on the 38th parallel or in the air space and territorial waters of Korea.

In the spring of 1979, the *Far Eastern Economic Review* of Hong-Kong, a magazine best informed of the political and economic realities of Asia, wrote that the American forces, incapable of stopping an offensive from the north, are deployed in a semicircle before Seoul, quite close to the demilitarized zone, in such a way that a possible invader may run up against them before they reach the capital city, and that this will involve the automatic entrance into war of the United States.

The Seoul government, on its part, is engendering a real war psychosis to reign permanently among the population which, for the north, absolutely nothing can justify.

A few months ago the televiewers probably saw the hallucinating spectacle of a general rehearsal of measures which would be taken in the capital of south Korea in case of the "enemy's menace" against the city: howling of sirens calling upon the citizens to go into the shelters, emission of smoke simulating an attack of gas, arrival of ambulances and relief teams wearing masks, that bustle about to pick up the "wounded" lying motionless on the sidewalks and roads, going into action of anti-aircraft guns, mass take-off of American pursuit planes, large concentration of tanks and armoured cars, fully equipped infantry units rushing off to meet the enemy, etc.

"Combined military exercises" have been staged frequently with the participation of large American and south Korean forces. Landing exercises have been conducted, plans of "lightning war" worked out, and the possibility of transporting American troops based in the Pacific and even in the United

States itself to south Korea by giant planes has been studied.

I have stayed in the DPRK long enough to verify that there is no warlike manifestation here. The so-called "aggressor" keeps all his self-control in face of the hysteria (the word is not strong enough) of his pretended "victim". But Pyongyang leaders do not conceal their apprehension before the war preparations by the south Korean government. They ask themselves if the southern regime will not push the "simulated" war into a real one, under the cover of some kind of machination aimed at drawing its American ally into the action.

I would like to warn the leaders of the United States against the snare prepared for them by their south Korean allies, the American circles in Korea, and Korea "lobby" of Washington.

They had better not forget the scandal caused by a former south Korean ambassador to the United States and the businessman Pak Dong Son whose mission was to bribe certain American parliamentarians who were opposed to the withdrawal of US troops from Korea. This situation is harmful and dangerous, and cannot last any longer.

I have stated that Korea's reunification is the most ardent desire of the Korean people. In the DPRK there is no question about this. In south Korea, in spite of the manoeuvres of the "junta" in power, the desire for union is also very clear.

The south Korean people are in fact tired of the dictatorship born of a military coup, which suppresses the democratic liberties, has falsified elections, tramples upon human rights, bans demonstrations, represses and often tortures the opponents.

According to certain information which I am unable to verify clearly, but seems probable, the Korean CIA, or KCIA, has 12,000 to 13,000 permanent agents and hundreds of thousands of informers.

It is said that south Korea has a policeman for every eight inhabitants. Mr. Yves Moreau, a French journalist, pointed out that in front of the gate of Seoul University there is a barracks where 500 to 600 soldiers stay always on the alert, that within the faculties there is a TV on a closed circuit to keep watch all the time, and that all assemblies of over 10 persons in the corridors are considered a "subversive act" liable to immediate arrest. To my knowledge this cannot be denied.

This same journalist assures that according to official sources, there are at least 60,000 political prisoners in the south Korean prisons.

How can it be surprising, in such conditions, that the south Koreans should want to get rid, at all costs and at once, of the dictatorship which oppresses them and of the so-called "alliance" with the United States, the creator and strong supporter of this regime, that keeps an occupation force in Korea in pursuit of a dangerous purpose?

Although many of them admire President KIM IL SUNG and his achievements, not all of the south Koreans are communists. Some are merely patriots who support independence and peace. Thinking of them and others, the President of the DPRK has long made the proposal for Korea's independent and peaceful reunification.

To review the numerous political and diplomatic steps taken by the Government of the DPRK for the reunification of Korea is beyond this modest book.

However, I would like to draw attention to some statements of President KIM IL SUNG which show that reunification has always been his main concern.

Already in March 1948, at the Second Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, the President affirmed that a supreme legislative body should be established following all-Korea elections held

according to the principle of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballots.

In August 1949, the President addressing a press conference enunciated the principle that he would advocate, for years to come, without any modification. He said:

"The Declaration of the Democratic Front for National Reunification set forth the measures for the peaceful reunification of our country, on the base of democratic principles, without recourse to fratricidal war and foreign interference."

In May 1972, high-level talks between the north and the south reached an agreement to publish a joint north-south statement of July 4, 1972 which enunciated three basic principles concerning the peaceful reunification of Korea. These principles accepted by the south Korean authorities are as follows:

1) independence, that is, exclusion of any foreign interference;

2) no use of force, respecting peaceful means;

3) establishment of great national unity, a unity respecting differences between the north and the south in politics, economy, culture and philosophy.

America's opposition to the joint statement welcomed very warmly throughout the country, became apparent from the next day, July 5. The spokesman of the State Department declared that although the north and the south were conducting negotiations, "the United States is thinking to push forward their plan of modernizing the south Korean army..., and is not inclined to reduce their troops stationed in south Korea", and that anyhow, they would make efforts to guarantee a "superior position" for the south Korean authorities.

Curious synchronization is that the President of south Korea, Mr. Pak Jung Hi, took to another coup of force in October 1972. He proclaimed martial

law, dissolved the National Assembly and "suspended" (in fact, annulled) the Constitution of 1962. Through a "referendum" in November, he manufactured a new Constitution, which granted him extended power, authorized him to take "emergency measures" and established a "National Conference for Unification" and a new National Assembly.

The "National Conference for Unification" consisted of 2,359 members President Pak could rely on. Charged with the mission of electing the President of the "Republic of Korea", this conference naturally chose him, its creator. As for the "reunification" question, the conference had to follow meekly the instructions from the master of the "Blue House" (the president's mansion in Seoul) and the counsels of the American government, which, in an effort to preserve its south Korean base, favours the perpetuation of the division of Korea.

Japan which had occupied the Korean peninsula for 35 years pretended in a series of statements that the security of the Japanese archipelago depended on that of south Korea.

An increasingly closer military cooperation was established between Washington, Tokyo and Seoul, which resulted in the formation, in July 1975, of a "Japan-US Consultative Committee for Defence", whose evident duty was to make provision for joint operations in case of war in Korea.

Despite all the delaying manoeuvres of the United States and its allies, the UN recognized that the presence of American troops in south Korea was the main factor of tension in eastern Asia. In November 1975, the 30th session of the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution providing for the dissolution of the UN forces in Korea, the withdrawal of the US troops from Korea and the replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement.

There is no need to say that this resolution, like many others, was not put into effect.

The stand of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with regard to reunification was clarified again in a speech made by Marshal KIM IL SUNG before the leading functionaries of the Workers' Party on June 23, 1973. The Marshal's second speech delivered on June 25 more clearly explained the contents of his first speech.

These speeches contain the "five-point policy for the reunification of the country". The five points are:

1) **"Elimination of military confrontation and relaxation of tensions between the north and the south".** This is "the most urgent, vital problem in dispelling misunderstanding and distrust between the north and the south."

The adoption of this point would permit the "cessation of the reinforcement of their armies and the arms race, withdrawal of all foreign troops, reduction of military strength and armaments, ending of the introduction of weapons from outside, conclusion of a peace agreement".

2) **"Many-sided cooperation and interchange between the north and the south in the political, military, diplomatic, economic and cultural fields".**

Such cooperation and interchange alone would make it possible to "consolidate the peace agreement to be concluded".

3) **"Convocation of a Great National Congress".**

The DPRK advocates participation of people from all walks of life in the north and the south in the nationwide patriotic work for national reunification.

The National Congress would be composed of "representatives of workers, peasants, working intellectuals, students and soldiers in the northern half", and of "workers, peasants, students, intellec-

tuals, military men, national capitalists and petty bourgeois in south Korea, as well as representatives of all political parties and social organizations in the north and the south", whose mission would be to solve the question of reunification through discussions.

4) **"Institution of a North-South Confederation".** When national unity has been restored thanks to the efforts of the Great National Congress, a North-South Confederation would be instituted which would leave intact for the time being the two existing systems in the north and the south.

The North-South Confederation would be named "Confederal Republic of Koryo" after the first state to be united (in the 10th century) on the national territory.

This Confederation would open up a decisive phase for complete reunification.

5) **"Entry of the Confederation into the UN".** In order to prevent the perpetuation of the division of Korea into two states, the north and the south should cooperate in the field of foreign relations.

The north and the south should not enter the UN separately. If they want to enter the UN before reunification, they should do so at least under the single name of "Confederal Republic of Koryo".

If the Korean question is brought up for discussion at the UN, the DPRK, "an interested party, should as a matter of course participate in the debate to take the floor."

Needless to say, the proposals, which appear very reasonable, imply the complete withdrawal of the US troops stationed in Korea.

This withdrawal was promised by President Carter during his election campaign. Because of the pressure he was subjected to and for reasons

I mentioned above, Mr. Carter presented a new plan in 1977 the essentials of which are as follows:

to leave 8,000-10,000 air force personnel in south Korea after 1982;

to leave planes and nuclear weapons there;

to give greater military and other aid to the regime of the south;

to reserve US naval bases on the East Sea of Korea.

In his plan President Carter said that the withdrawal of the US troops would be effected only with the approval of the parliaments of south Korea and Japan.

Such an approval has not been and will never be given. Third parties cannot decide matters in place of the United States. The American government itself, and it alone, must work out a new policy towards Korea, bearing all responsibility for it.

It is certain that at present a vast majority of the UN member states endorse the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the US troops from Korea, including the air force as a matter of course. The summit conferences of the non-aligned countries also demanded the same.

The withdrawal of the US forces is also a matter of common sense. If Washington think a little more deeply, they will understand that the unpopular regime of Seoul is maintained only by the military, economic and financial support of the United States, that the Seoul regime is obliged to resort to more and more brutal repression, which causes the new sections of the population to rise against it, that the day will come when the police of the south will be unable to check not only demonstrations but a widespread popular uprising.

That day, the south Korean authorities will have to order the most hard-hearted elements of its army, the old mercenaries of the United States, to open

fire against the crowd. The killed will be counted by the hundred and maybe by the thousand, and the United States will be called, in Korea and the world, to account for the massacre.

I believe that President KIM IL SUNG is very sincere when he demands the peaceful reunification of Korea on democratic lines.

I also believe that the DPRK has no intention at all to invade south Korea, knowing well that the United States, even if they had withdrawn all their troops, in case another war breaks out, will intervene without delay against it, destroying its whole territory.

But I also believe that if the south Korean people rise in mass revolt against the dictatorship of the successors to Pak Jung Hi and become the object of bloody repression, the Government of the DPRK cannot do otherwise than come to the rescue of their south Korean brothers, no matter what price they have to pay.

The reunification of Korea will only be realized stage by stage, perhaps over a period of many years.

The United States will be wise not to perpetuate the division of Korea, but to do the best possible in the interests of all.

The United States could, if it so desires, establish in south Korea a democratic regime which respects human rights, a regime acceptable to the overwhelming majority of the population and determined to discuss the process of reunification with the Government of the DPRK on an equal footing.

I think it would be good to attach deserving importance to two statements of President KIM IL SUNG that have been repeated many times. The first is that the differences of social system, ideas, religious belief between the north and the south should not bar the way to reunification and that any one side should not impose its will on the

other. The second is that every citizen, even if he had committed crimes against the country and the people in the past, will be warmly accepted into the national community to the last even after reunification if he admits his errors and comes out on the road of peaceful reunification.

## CHAPTER NINE

# KIMILSUNGISM

In Chapter Three I outlined the life and political career of Marshal KIM IL SUNG, President of the DPRK.

Here I wrote how the future President (then 18 years old) convened the Kalun Meeting (1930) in the rigorous days of Japanese occupation and set forth the political line that brought the Korean revolution to victory.

This was quite an original line which rejected "dependence on others" (dependence on the Communist Party of the Soviet Union regarded as a model by almost all the Marxist-Leninists at that time), opposed "dogmatism" (in other words, a "truth clarified" by the great communist thinkers of the world) and recognized the need of "using one's own brains" for an independent solution of the problems of one's own country.

This was indisputably a "new reader" of Marxist-Leninist theories and later became Kimilsungism named after its author.

Marshal KIM IL SUNG said as follows:

"...the idea of Juche means that the masters of the revolution and the work of construction are the masses of the people and that they are also the motive force of the revolution and the work of construction. In other words, one is responsible

for one's own destiny and one has also the capacity for hewing out one's own destiny."

The Juche idea covers the internal and external policies, the economy, culture, national defence and all other areas. I deem it necessary to quote here some original sentences from the official documents which show the originality and profundity of this idea created by the Marshal-President and translated into practice under his leadership for more than 50 years.

"The basic requirement of the Juche idea", declares the document of which I will change not a word, "is that one should maintain independent and creative stands with the firm attitude of a master towards the revolutionary struggle and the work of construction."

"The independent stand is the fundamental stand which one must maintain in the revolution and construction, and the creative stand is the fundamental method that one must apply in transforming nature and society."

"The independent stand is a stand of opposing dependence on others, thinking and solving all problems in accordance with one's own judgement and conviction; it is a stand of displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, thus solving all problems arising in the revolution and construction on one's own responsibility under all circumstances."

"The creative stand is a stand of settling all problems that arise from the revolution and construction by relying on the creative initiative of the popular masses and applying experiences gained by other countries **to suit one's own country's historical conditions and national peculiarities.**"

"The **Juche** idea is a perfect proletarian internationalist idea that makes it possible to successfully carry out both the national and international duties of the working masses."

*President Kim Il Sung gives an on-the-spot guidance to the construction of a local factory*

"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea holds fast to the principle of independence in politics, self-support in economy and self-defence in guarding the nation on the basis of the immortal **Juche** idea of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung."

"Political independence is a guiding principle that the Government of the Republic maintains in formulating and implementing all its internal and external policies."

"In accordance with the requirements of the **Juche** idea the Government of the Republic formulates all its policies for the revolution and construction in the fields of industry, agriculture, education, literature and art, judicial administration, etc., in a way that suits Korea's realities, and carries them out with its own efforts."

"In its foreign relations also, the Government of the Republic establishes relations between states on the principles of complete equality, independence, mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs and mutual benefit, and wages an anti-imperialist struggle independently from its own judgement and decision."

"Self-reliance in the economy is a guiding principle that the Government of the Republic maintains in the field of economic construction."

"The Government of the Republic has built a solid independent national economy, comprehensively developed and equipped with modern techniques, including light industry and agriculture by relying on the strength of its own people, on its own cadres and on the raw materials in its country."

"Self-reliance in national defence is a guiding principle of the Government of the Republic for the embodiment of the Juche idea in military affairs."

"The Government of the Republic has set up a defence system involving the whole people and the whole nation with the People's Army as its core,

turning the whole country into an impregnable fortress."

It was not without pain that the Marshal was able to lay down such a line of direction within the Party. "After powerful and tireless ideological struggle", he said he put it into practice only in 1955. And he said: "The year 1955 marked a turning point in our Party's consistent struggle against dogmatism. It was also at that time, in fact, that we started our struggle against modern revisionism that had emerged within the socialist camp." My readers know that a very great power takes to "modern revisionism" and is thus subject to condemnation. The struggle against "revisionism" is accompanied by the struggle against flunkeyism towards great powers, bureaucracy and formalism.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Marshal defended the purity of Marxism-Leninism and smashed all sorts of wrong tendencies of distorting Marxism-Leninism and hindering its development not only in Korea but also in the eyes of many Marxists, particularly the peoples of the third world countries.

Wilfred Burchett, Australian journalist and communist, who is known as a strong sympathizer with the Soviet Union, wrote a few years ago that the "Juche" policy was still hard for some socialist countries to understand and admit. He went on to note: "I believe it is necessary to see well that for the Koreans this policy has a value in their own country and under the present situation."

In fact, this seems to be too limited an explanation of Kimilsungism because Juche study groups have been organized in many countries and that ideological orientation, in Korea itself, is by no means circumstantial: it is an invariable guiding compass of the DPRK.

It can be said with confidence that Juche is not

divorced from Marxism-Leninism but, on the contrary, accords with its principle. As the Marshal clarified, this Juche country knows how to introduce positive experience from all socialist countries including the Soviet Union. That the Korean communists love their country is not contradictory to working-class internationalism but accords with it completely.

Mr. Burchett knew too well the meaning of the words **"positive experience"** and so did not think deeply of their expression. But in the last part of his writing, he admitted: "the Juche-based line of direction for building their country by their own efforts fits well the mental features of the Koreans; it is a stimulant to inspire dignity, courage and national traditions in their minds."

This is praiseworthy.

Enthusiasm to learn the Juche idea is increasing greatly among the journalists and writers of the third world countries.

Mr. P.L. Lakhanpal, editor-in-chief of the Indian paper *Evening News* pointed out that the report made by the Marshal at the 20th anniversary celebration of the founding of the DPRK (September 7, 1968) is "a historical document of worldwide significance, which is equal in its importance and influence to the *Communist Manifesto* published by Marx and Engels in 1848".

According to this Indian journalist, the significance of the report lies in the fact that it is based on the experience gained by the Korean people "in confrontation with complex problems including that of power and socialist construction, strategy and menace of capitalism, neo-colonialism and modern imperialism".

Mr. Lakhanpal wrote: "The DPRK is pride not only for Asia but also for the socialist world today.... The report of Comrade KIM IL SUNG transcends

by far all national bounds and the limitations of the times.... The report encourages and guides all the people the world over who are waging a sacred struggle for freedom, rights and justice."

I (it is known to all that I am not a Marxist) believe that Kimilsungism fully accords with the desire and demands of the Korean people; it not only brings dignity, justice and prosperity to them but also gives many teachings to a small country like mine.

I admire this unwavering independent will of the Korean state, its quick and magnificent reconstruction after the war of destruction, and its attitude of drawing profits from others' example in the sole interest of the nation.

The DPRK is a beacon for small countries. It has no ambition for territory nor it puts political pressure to bear upon anybody. It only shows what it has—beautiful nature and wonderful achievements. It generously gives advice to those who need it, and aid to those who need it. It welcomes people who love and respect it.

The Korea of Marshal KIM IL SUNG is, indeed, the honour of our Asia. Cambodia has had and will have no better friend than Korea.

**THE END**

*Printed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*

**No. 809850**